

**From:** [Robert Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Uber Amendment"  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:14:24 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to encourage to you read the following blog post in regards to the 'Uber Amendment'.

<http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/>

Please take into consideration the effects of the decision you are about to make. Not only will it affect this startup, but it will set precedent and affect many others. Please allow consumers to have a choice in our so called "capitalistic society". These startups are creating valuable services and jobs in our economy. By striking down the minimum fare for Uber, you can have a positive impact on our society and economy. I strongly encourage you to do this. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Peterson

**From:** [Andrew Hartman](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Über Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:54:05 PM

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Please strike down the minimum fare language in the uber amendment, and support Jack Evans amendment that would have no minimum for Über.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 10, 2012 2:34:18 PM EDT  
**To:** 'Andrew Hartman' <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Über Amendment

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

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**From:** Andrew Hartman [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jennifer Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:02:31 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I understand that Councilman Evans is introducing an amendment that would have no minimum for Uber. I urge you to please vote in favor! By not doing so, you will be preventing any other car service from providing a viable option for transportation. Setting price floors for other transportation options in DC prevents competition and continually allows taxi drivers to provide sub-par service.

Strike down the minimum fare requirement in Councilwoman Cheh's amendment and vote for Councilman Evans that would have no minimum for Uber.

Jennifer Lindsey

Resident - owner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20001

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Jenn Lindsey** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 9:53 AM  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Councilman Wells-

As a resident of the 6th ward, I would like to encourage you to vote against the minimum fare language in the uber amendment. I am a frequent user of uber - personally and professionally. I don't believe the council's job is to pick favorites.

Competition is good and if having über forces the cabs in DC to clean up and provide better service, then good. Too many times I get in cab that is filthy, with a driver who is rude and not interested in providing a nice environment.

Again, I ask that you vote in favor of competition by striking down the minimum fare

language from the uber amendment.

Respectfully - Jennifer Lindsey, resident 6th ward

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jenn Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:53:05 AM

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Councilman Wells-

As a resident of the 6th ward, I would like to encourage you to vote against the minimum fare language in the uber amendment. I am a frequent user of uber - personally and professionally. I don't believe the council's job is to pick favorites. Competition is good and if having uber forces the cabs in DC to clean up and provide better service, then good. Too many times I get in cab that is filthy, with a driver who is rude and not interested in providing a nice environment.

Again, I ask that you vote in favor of competition by striking down the minimum fare language from the uber amendment.

Respectfully - Jennifer Lindsey, resident 6th ward

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mark @thebigboarddc](mailto:Mark@thebigboarddc)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:08:25 AM

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Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

I'm a DC resident and urge you strongly as both a business owner and resident to strike down this amendment.

Mark Flannery



[www.thebigboarddc.com](http://www.thebigboarddc.com)  
[facebook.com/thebigboarddc](https://facebook.com/thebigboarddc)  
[twitter.com/thebigboarddc](https://twitter.com/thebigboarddc)



**From:** [Michele Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:55:40 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I hope that you will vote against this legislation tomorrow. As a recent NE dweller, taxis are often hard to come by in the late evenings as many do not want to pick up near Gallaudet/Trinidad. Although the revitalization has come to the neighborhood, the reputation has not near Trinidad. Uber is often the safest way for me to get around. I hope that you and the other council members will see it has a boutique or a la carte service for those of us who do not own vehicles or choose not to drive and on occasion cannot rely on the dispatcher of a taxi service to be on time for business and personal appointments.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Jackson  
Resident at 3rd & K NE

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:42:54 PM EDT  
**To:** Michele Jackson <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** **Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates**  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

### Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

### Take Action

## THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
  
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,  
Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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[View this email in your browser](#)

 [@Uber\\_DC](#)



**From:** [Taylor Griffin](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:02:21 PM

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Dear Councilmember Catania -

I am writing to strongly urge your vote against the minimum fare provision in the so-called "Über" amendment. The purpose of taxi regulation, paraphrasing the DC taxi commission web site, is to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient taxi service at a reasonable price. I fail to see how depriving Washingtonians of transportation alternatives that do all these things exceptionally well serves this purpose. Forcing consumers to pay rates for Über services five times that of taxis certainly is no way to make transportation more affordable. DC should embrace technology and forward-thinking services like Über that make transportation more convenient and efficient.

Über provides an incredible service at a fair price. Imposing punitive rates to protect an inferior service is incredibly wrongheaded. DC should focus on raising the standards of the rest of the taxi fleet, not stifling innovation. This issue is more than a practical issue of pricing and licensing. It is symbolic of what kind of city we want DC to be. Forward-thinking, open and innovative? Or a monument to bureaucratic absurdity worthy of our reputation for cronyism?

I would appreciate your informing me of your intentions in tomorrow's vote. I will weigh them strongly when I cast mine.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of my view.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Griffin  
Foggy Bottom  
[REDACTED] (cell)

**From:** [Taylor Griffin](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:50:16 PM

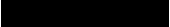
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Dear Councilmember Brown -

I'm writing to strongly urge your vote against the minimum fare provision in the so-called "Über" amendment. The purpose of taxi regulation, paraphrasing the DC taxi commission web site, is to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient taxi service at a reasonable price. I fail to see how depriving Washingtonians of transportation alternatives that do all these things exceptionally well serves this purpose. Forcing consumers to pay rates for Über services five times that of taxis certainly is no way to make transportation more affordable. DC should embrace technology and forward-thinking services like Über that make transportation more convenient and efficient.

Über provides an incredible service at a fair price. Imposing punitive rates to protect an inferior service is incredibly wrongheaded. DC should focus on raising the standards of the rest of the taxi fleet, not stifling innovation. I would appreciate your informing me of your intentions in tomorrow's vote. I will weigh them strongly when I cast mine.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of my view.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Griffin  
Foggy Bottom  
 (cell)

**From:** [John Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:11:25 PM

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Councilmember Catania-

Please stand for the citizens of this city and vote to strike **down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#)**.

As a pioneer of urban transportation innovation, DC does not need to be held hostage by taxi companies that cannot adequately serve the people of this city. I have lived here for close to 10 years and witnessed numerous instances where one strong local group such as the taxi industry forces their archaic business practices on us citizens because they have friends at city hall, please do the right thing and change that.

I appreciate your time.

John Kelley  
Shaw resident

**From:** [John Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:09:28 PM

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Councilmember Wells-

Please stand for the citizens of this city and vote to strike **down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#)**.

As a pioneer of urban transportation innovation, DC does not need to be held hostage by taxi companies that cannot adequately serve the people of this city. I have lived here for close to 10 years and witnessed numerous instances where one strong local group such as the taxi industry forces their archaic business practices on us citizens because they have friends at city hall, please do the right thing and change that.

I appreciate your time.

John Kelley  
Shaw resident

**From:** [Christian Bonilla](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:30:56 PM

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Mr. Catania,

As a city resident, taxpayer and free market advocate, I hope that you will not vote to artificially inflate the price of uber's fares in the name of protecting taxi drivers. They have been insulated from competition for too long, and offering better taxi service should be their takeaway from uber's emergence, not constraining the market and punishing citizens. Regardless of the sophistry or legal acrobatics put forward to the public, setting a price floor to reduce innovation in the transportation services market simply charges the rest of us to protect a select few.

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the uber amendment.

Sincerely,  
Christian M. Bonilla

**From:** [Betsy Philpott](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:59:37 PM

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Mr. Wells,

Please do not vote for the Über Amendment. Über is an excellent transportation system that we need in DC. It provides a safe and reliable alternative to the taxi system. Also, it promotes competition which stimulates the economy. There is a time and place for both uber and traditional taxis. Please do not vote for the Über amendment.

Thank you,  
Betsy Philpott

**From:** [Lisa Seigel](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** ÜBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:59:28 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a native Washingtonian who has remained here for 55 years. I have seen it all. I am asking that you strike down proposed the minimum fare language from the ÜBER AMENDMENT and stop protecting the outrageous taxi lobby in the city. I am tired of getting into filthy taxis with drivers that refuse to turn on the air conditioning or just make it so uncomfortable for the passenger because THEY CAN! I am tired of taxis that only take CASH. This is 2012 -- can you name another major city in America where taxis don't take credit cards because the drivers don't want to pay the fees?

ÜBER TAXI has been a godsend for this city. They are clean, efficient, polite and there when you need them! If they can offer far better service at a competitive rate to DC taxis with -- well then -- let the chips fall where they may!!! I have not seen any effort by the DC taxi company to improve their service in any way.

VOTE AGAINST THIS PRICE-FIXING AMENDMENT!

Respectfully,

Lisa Seigel

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20008

**From:** [Tara Kochis](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:19:22 AM

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Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment!  
Concerned citizen.

Tara Kochis

SLONE<sup>PARTNERS</sup>

TARA KOCHIS -



**From:** [Tara Kochis](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:17:27 AM

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Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment!  
Concerned citizen.

Tara Kochis

SLONE<sup>PARTNERS</sup>

TARA KOCHIS -

**From:** [Anwar Mirza](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:03:27 AM

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Dear Council -

If your vote is against the below amendment then my vote is with you.

#### Part B. — Uber Amendments

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase "public vehicle-for-hire ride" and insert the phrase "taxicab ride" in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify that the 50-cent taxicab surcharge applies to taxicabs.

7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase "The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to" and insert the phrase "On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to" in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read as follows:

"(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

"(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

"(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

"(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

"(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

"(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

"(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a receipt that lists the

origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and

“(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section.”.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify how sedan services operate.
- Sedans would be required to charge a minimum fare of 5 times the drop rate for taxicabs.
- Sedans would be required to charge time and distance rates that are greater as those for taxicabs.
- These requirements would ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service.
- This section would also clarify that businesses that connect passengers to sedans are exempt from regulation so long as they provide an estimated fare, disclose rates, provide a receipt, and use sedans licensed by the Commission to operate in the District.

**From:** [John Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:06:46 PM

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Councilmember Brown-

Please stand for the citizens of this city and vote to strike **down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#)**.

As a pioneer of urban transportation innovation, DC does not need to be held hostage by taxi companies that cannot adequately serve the people of this city. I have lived here for close to 10 years and witnessed numerous instances where one strong local group such as the taxi industry forces their archaic business practices on us citizens because they have friends at city hall, please do the right thing and change that.

I appreciate your time.

John Kelley  
Shaw resident

**From:** [Laura Terry](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment -- Correction  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:37:28 PM

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Dear Council Member *Brown*:

As a twelve-year resident of D.C., I am writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment being voted on tomorrow.

Uber has greatly improved the standard of living for my husband and myself in this city. For example, if my husband and I go to a dinner party or restaurant on Capitol Hill, it is impossible for us to get a taxi to pick us up to return to our Logan Circle home, *even though we have called specifically for a taxi*. With Uber, a car *always* comes when it says it will and much, much more quickly than any cab has. Uber has also enabled us to enjoy more of this city in a safer way than ever before. Specifically, I believe that it discourages driving under the influence when NW residents travel to places like the H Street corridor and all the other neighborhoods not frequented by cabs. Finally, as a woman, I feel safer knowing that I will not have to stand alone to try to hail a cab after a meal out with friends, but instead can simply walk out to meet my Uber driver.

Please do not let the taxi cab lobby crush such a great service that is trying to make itself available to more of the city's demographic. I truly believe that a larger, more economical Uber service in Washington, D.C. will improve the safety of everyone in this city, while at the same time allowing everyone to enjoy more parts of the city -- including up-and-coming neighborhoods not traditionally on the taxi cab circuit. Competition to the city's taxi cabs can also only work to improve the condition and responsiveness of those vehicles, which ultimately benefits everyone who has to take them.

Thank you very much,  
Laura K. Terry

P.S. My apologies for addressing you incorrectly in my prior email.

**From:** [Andy Kroll](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER AMENDMENT -- from a Ward 6 resident  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:41:21 PM

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Tommy,


My name's Andy Kroll, and I'm a resident of Ward 6, on 2nd St SE next to Garfield Park. We've met in person a few times, but I've never emailed you before. However, I'm emailing now to ask you to reconsider, if not strike, the minimum fare language in the "Uber amendment" in the pending taxi modernization bill.

I've used traditional DC cabs for several years. It was a welcome relief when Uber brought its service to DC. Uber is more convenient, more hospitable to its customers, and frankly a better transportation option in all respects. It's outrageous how DC cabs treat their customers including myself, the outdated cars they drive, and the fact that they don't even accept credit cards.

Competition is good for business and good for DC. The district's transportation industry is no different. I understand that it's one thing for a business to move into DC and operate on its own rules. The taxi modernization bills appears to apply some degree of regulation to so-called "sedan class vehicles." Unless I'm mistaken, penalizing Uber with this minimum fare language, as appears to be the case, is unfair and anti-competitive.

I hope you and the council will settle on a common-sense solution here that doesn't unfairly penalize Uber—and by extension DC residents like myself. I hope you and the council allow Uber and traditional DC cabs to co-exist and compete on equal footing. Many thanks!

Best,  
Andy Kroll



**From:** [Elvis Oxley](#)  
**To:** [Holland, Joy \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment - how will Ms. Bowser vote?  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:35:00 AM


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Ms. Holland and Mr. Hawkins,

I would like to know how Ms. Bowser intends to vote on the so called "Uber Amendments" this week. I can't imagine anyone who participates daily in a generally free market economy would vote to limit competition, so please let me know that my Councilwoman thinks the same way here.

Ref: <http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/09/dc-city-councils-uber-amendment-would-force-sedans-to-charge-5x-taxi-prices-and-kill-uberx/>

Thank you,

Elvis Oxley  
Ward 4  


**From:** [Isobel Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment - Minimum Fare  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:00:25 AM

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Dear Michael,

I am requesting that you vote today to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

I would be interested in your response to the following question: Are you in favor of innovation or of protecting incumbents?

Your name and response will be published in a blog of a 1,000,000 + readers. If you ignore my email, your name will also be published to make it clear that as a member of the DC Council, you chose to make no comment.

Regards,  
Isobel Phillips



**From:** [David Isaacs](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment - Please strike down minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:00:19 PM

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Mr. Brown,

As a proud DC resident, I encourage you to remove the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment. I don't own a car and am a frequent user of all types of transportation - metro, bus, bike, taxi and now Uber. Uber has truly been a great thing for the city. It's often nearly impossible to get taxis from certain parts of DC, but Uber is willing to pick riders up from anywhere around the city. Additionally, DC taxi drivers hate travel outside the District. Again, it doesn't matter to Uber. They'll drive you anywhere. I understand that Uber competes with the taxi industry, but it's this competition that will force all transportation options in the city to improve. Please allow this innovative, customer-focused company to continue to offer great service and better prices by removing the minimum fare language.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Isaacs

**From:** [Todd Johannessen](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment -- please vote AGAINST  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:04:58 PM

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Mr Wells, I am a constituent of yours in Shaw and strong support of your council membership. Please do not vote in favor of the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. The DC Taxi system is broken; punishing an efficient, market driven system that provides its customers with exactly what they want and are willing to pay for (such as Uber) will not either improve the DC Taxi system nor make it more responsive to the public. It will make the taxi system less so. Let Uber continue to operate as it is rather than taking on a protectionist and misguided piece of legislation to protect an inefficient, dangerous, unresponsive, and unpleasant industry.

Sincerely

Todd Johannessen



**From:** [Caeli Andrews](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment - Please vote no!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:57 PM

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Tommy

I live at Capitol Hill Tower, 1000 New Jersey Ave, Se and I am one of your constituents. I am writing you to request that you increase competition when it come to transportation and do not vote for the Uber Amendment.

-Caeli Andrews

**From:** [Gelsey Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment - strike down minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:09 PM

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Dear DC council members,

I am writing to you today about UBER and the UBER amendment. I am an avid fan of UBER and its services. It is a quick, easy, and reliable service that makes it easy for DC residents to get around town, in particular in areas that are not served by the metro system. As a female, I find it very safe to ride in an UBER car. It can be scary to stand outside while waiting for a taxi or bus. With UBER, I can safely wait indoors while the car is on its way to pick me up to take me to my destination.

Please strike down the UBER amendment that would maintain UBER's fares at five times a taxi's minimum fare, especially now as they try to roll out an environmentally friendlier hybrid fleet. Please don't turn your backs away from the DC residents that you serve. Thank you!

Best regards,

Gelsey Bennett  
Mt Pleasant  
DC resident since 2003

**From:** [Joseph Clem](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Amendment - Strike it down!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:34 PM

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DC Council,

Actions like this (The proposed UBER amendment -- link provided below) make citizens question the integrity of their governing bodies. Don't take sides. Be fair. Fight corruption. Do what is right, not what isn't. Those that voted for you do not want this amendment.

V/R,

Joe

- A concerned DC Resident

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>

**From:** [Jason Greenwood](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment - taxi modernization bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:23 PM

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Dear Mr. Brown, It has come to my attention that the council plans to vote tomorrow on an amendment that will require Uber sedan services to be a minimum of 5x the rate of taxi cabs in the city. This not only seems unfair, but also disrupts our free enterprise system. The service received from area taxi services is extremely poor, we need competition to not only provide a viable alternative, but also to ensure that existing taxi companies are increasing their level of service. I realize that the taxi industry has a substantial lobby in the city, but would implore you to vote against this amendment and instead let the free enterprise bring better fares and better service to our citizens.

Sincerely,  
Jason S. Greenwood

**From:** [Tom Schneck](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment -- Unfair Monopoly for Taxis!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:30 PM

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Dear DC City Council,

I am very disturbed to read that the DC City Council intends to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form at tomorrow's session.

If you are not aware, Uber is a unique and modern way to obtain affordable transportation in the District. Other forms of public transportation, such as taxi and metro bus, are often in deplorable conditions and operated by people I wouldn't trust to drive me around the city. Thanks to the new smart phone based application, "Uber," residents can now easily call for a black car/sedan service to pick them up and take them to their destination with the touch of a button on their smart phone. Users then rate the drivers based on their service. The Uber service elevates the public transportation options for DC residents and visitors.

The new law you are considering will prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare!! This is unfair legislation that will prevent this great new company from growing in our city.

I urge you to VOTE AGAINST making Uber's minimum fare to be more than taxis. Don't allow taxis to have a monopoly on transportation in this city.

Thanks for your vote against this law.

Sincerely,

Tom Schneck II

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Art Garza](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment - Urgent  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:20:08 AM

---

Dear Mr. Catania:

I was recently informed that the DC council is about to vote on an amendment that would effect my Uber experience. As a long term DC resident, I am shocked that the council would even consider imposing higher fees for a service that I consider a valuable service to District residence who are fed up with the monopoly service of the DC taxi commission and it's services. I would encourage you to take a ride on an Uber service car and notice a huge difference in how we are treated as individuals and citizens of this great city...please, please don't vote for this amendment.

Best.

Art Garza





**From:** [Nicole Runge D'Ercole](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment - Vote NO  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:45:18 PM

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As a long time Capitol Hill resident and voter, I strongly urge you to vote against the Uber Amendment tomorrow. I am sure you are aware that getting cab service on Capitol Hill is extremely frustrating. You can call a cab and it may show up in 10 minutes, it might show up in 40 minutes, it may never show up. Bottom line, it's undependable. If you have to be somewhere at a certain time you can not count on the DC cab system. With Uber I can easily see how far a car is and approximately how many minutes it will arrive at my location. Then I can make the decision if I want to cab or Uber. I know I'll pay more for the Uber ride, but I know exactly when it will pick me up, the car will be clean and the air conditioning will work. I will pay more for that, but making it a law to make it 5 times more expensive is completely ridiculous and can be seen as nothing but trying to prop up the broken cab system in DC. More competition is better. Maybe if the DC cabs updated their systems and could tell me when they would pick me up in a clean car with air conditioning I would gladly use them. But until then the Uber system is far superior and should not be penalized for having a better, more desirable product. I would like to know how you plan on voting tomorrow.

**From:** [Clay Shields](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment - what are you all thinking?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:59 PM

---

Dear Councillor Catania,

After being born in DC and living here for the last 11 years after being away for school and the military, I have found an issue that concerns me enough to write to you. Earlier today, I found that there was an amendment to the DC taxi law that was proposed that will keep Uber from rolling out a hybrid service. I can't imagine why anyone who isn't a taxi driver would think this is a good idea.

I'll be frank - the DC taxicab system stinks. The cabs are old and uncomfortable and the service is generally awful. I can't tell you how many times I have been stood up by cabs who said they were coming to pick me up in Glover Park, and left me scrambling to find someone to drive me to the airport or train station. I had hoped that the switch to meters from the awful old fare system would help, but it hasn't.

Recently though, I found Uber. It is an incredible service. It is fast, efficient, and reliable. I don't use it often, but when I do it works really, really well - way better than the cab system. Please vote against the amendment. Competition is a good thing, especially when the alternative is the crappy system we have now.

Thanks,

Clay Shields  
Glover Park

**From:** [Darrin Auito](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment & Tech Enhancement Act  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:20:05 AM

---

FYI - Councilmember Evans is introducing an amendment that would have no minimum for Uber. Please support this amendment.

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 9:51 AM, Darrin Auito <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Good morning, Councilman Catania.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support of Bill B19-0747, the Technology Enhancement Act. As someone who is actively involved with DC's growing tech sector, I believe that this bill will help the sector to flourish, creating new jobs and diversifying the District's economy. I strongly encourage you to pass the bill **in its current form**.

However, I am concerned about the "Uber Amendment" that is being discussed today at City Council. I believe that the City Council should adopt policies that are *pro-growth*, not anti-competitive. To be honest, the Uber Amendment smells of backroom deals and crony capitalism and appears to be contrary to the objective of the aforementioned Tech Enhancement Act.

I am an intellectual property attorney and advisor to several technology startup companies (not Uber) and would be more than happy to talk with you about this issue or any other issues relating to tech startup companies operating in Washington, DC.

Regards,

Darrin

**From:** [Darrin Auito](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment & Tech Enhancement Act  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:51:10 AM

---

Good morning, Councilman Catania.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support of Bill B19-0747, the Technology Enhancement Act. As someone who is actively involved with DC's growing tech sector, I believe that this bill will help the sector to flourish, creating new jobs and diversifying the District's economy. I strongly encourage you to pass the bill **in its current form**.

However, I am concerned about the "Uber Amendment" that is being discussed today at City Council. I believe that the City Council should adopt policies that are *pro-growth*, not anti-competitive. To be honest, the Uber Amendment smells of backroom deals and crony capitalism and appears to be contrary to the objective of the aforementioned Tech Enhancement Act.

I am an intellectual property attorney and advisor to several technology startup companies (not Uber) and would be more than happy to talk with you about this issue or any other issues relating to tech startup companies operating in Washington, DC.

Regards,

Darrin

**From:** [A Powers](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment (Min Fare?)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:19:23 PM

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Good Afternoon Councilman,

I have recently been informed of an upcoming decision point for the Council. An amendment referred to as the "Uber Amendment." It is a fine piece of legislation except for a small matter of adding language to dictate a minimum fare. I am very happy to see you are a well-versed and informed Council member and are trying to omit (as you stated on Twitter) this seemingly innocuous language that seems to, in reality, strike at the very heart of our thriving small business initiatives here in DC. We cannot force small businesses to adopt disadvantageous pricing structures. We need them to be competitive and thrive so they can assist our economy with jobs and possibly develop into larger contributing businesses. If we start hindering competitive job growth by unnecessarily limiting our small business growth, we will stagnate as a city and our numerous social issues will continue or worsen. As an astute Councilman and good citizen, I'm glad you agree with omitting this language that is so acidic to the principles of helping small DC businesses.

In summary, thank you for omitting the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you for your hard work and public service representing our fine city.

Respectfully,  
Austin

**From:** [Arjun Mody](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment // Strike down the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:47 PM

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Dear Councilman Brown -

I have been a DC resident for the past seven years. Since that time, my home -- Ward 6 has thrived, and I am certain you are to credit for making some of it possible. And the future is bright with the redevelopment of the SW waterfront.

Having lived in my neighborhood since 2005, I will state without hesitation that there is a problem in the availability of taxis. As it is easy to get a taxi in areas like Georgetown, Dupont, and Adams Morgan, it is sometimes very difficult to get a taxi in the SW.

Just a few weeks ago I stood on the corner of my block, mid-day, in a suit, with my arm raised for over 30 minutes waiting for a taxi to take me to the airport.

This past weekend, I called for an Uber car to take me to the airport, and one was waiting in front of my building within 7 minutes.

Just because of where we live, we shouldn't have any less access to public transportation options. The reality is there are certain parts of DC that have better taxi access than others. I'm okay with that. I choose to live in the SW. But we shouldn't have to pay more when another option does come along.

I respectfully ask you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language.

Appreciatively,

Arjun Mody

Washington, DC 20024

**From:** [Arjun Mody](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment // Strike down the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:15 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania -

I have been a DC resident for the past seven years. Since that time, my home -- Ward 6 has thrived, and I am certain you are to credit for making some of it possible. And the future is bright with the redevelopment of the SW waterfront.

Having lived in my neighborhood since 2005, I will state without hesitation that there is a problem in the availability of taxis. As it is easy to get a taxi in areas like Georgetown, Dupont, and Adams Morgan, it is sometimes very difficult to get a taxi in the SW.

Just a few weeks ago I stood on the corner of my block, mid-day, in a suit, with my arm raised for over 30 minutes waiting for a taxi to take me to the airport.

This past weekend, I called for an Uber car to take me to the airport, and one was waiting in front of my building within 7 minutes.

Just because of where we live, we shouldn't have any less access to public transportation options. The reality is there are certain parts of DC that have better taxi access than others. I'm okay with that. I choose to live in the SW. But we shouldn't have to pay more when another option does come along.

I respectfully ask you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language.

Appreciatively,

Arjun Mody

Washington, DC 20024

**From:** [Arjun Mody](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment // Strike down the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:44 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells -

I have been a Ward 6 resident for the past seven years. Since that time, Ward 6 has thrived, and I am certain you are to credit for making some of it possible. And the future is bright with the redevelopment of the SW waterfront.

Having lived in Ward 6 since 2005, I will state without hesitation that there is a problem in the availability of taxis. As it is easy to get a taxi in areas like Georgetown, Dupont, and Adams Morgan, it is sometimes very difficult to get a taxi in the SW.

Just a few weeks ago I stood on the corner of my block, mid-day, in a suit, with my arm raised for over 30 minutes waiting for a taxi to take me to the airport.

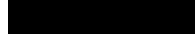
This past weekend, I called for an Uber car to take me to the airport, and one was waiting in front of my building within 7 minutes.

Just because of where we live, we shouldn't have any less access to public transportation options. The reality is there are certain parts of DC that have better taxi access than others. I'm okay with that. I choose to live in the SW. But we shouldn't have to pay more when another option does come along.

I respectfully ask you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language.

Appreciatively,

Arjun Mody

  
Washington, DC 20024



**From:** [Kelsey Flora](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Brian Doherty](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment and minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:11 PM

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Esteemed members of the DC Council,

It pains me to have to write an email like this. I lived in Ward 3 for five years and recently moved to Ward 2, where I live with my boyfriend (copied here). He, like me, lived in Ward 3 for years and also spent several years as a resident of Ward 6.

We're in our late 20s, we have good jobs, and we have no intention of leaving the District any time soon. In other words, we are exactly the kind of individual that DC purports to want as long-time residents. We live here, we work here, we pay taxes here and we spend money here.

And, since we have lived here, we've been beholden to the kind of sub-par taxi service that plagues our city and has been covered in the media ad nauseum for the past several months. So, when an alternative, in the form of Uber, came along, we jumped at the chance to use it. Courteous drivers! Who don't refuse to take you somewhere! Who are dressed nicely and driving a vehicle that doesn't make you wish you were wearing a helmet and had four extra seatbelts just for yourself!

And now, from my understanding, rather than properly regulating the ACTUAL taxi system to create one that adequately serves the needs of residents, tourists and everything in between, the Council is considering a measure to punish Uber and make it virtually impossible for them to do business here.

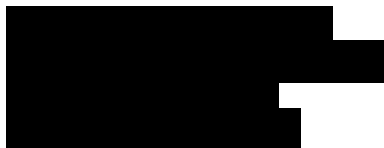
My main problem here is that this stinks of taxi commission meddling...clearly there's no one considering the plight of taxi cab CUSTOMERS in all of this. In case you haven't seen this gem floating around the internet, here is what most people actually think of our cab system: <http://dccabssuck.com/>.

In my 6.5 years in this city, I, a young woman, have been refused cab rides from downtown to Cleveland Park, from Cleveland Park to Trinidad, from Trinidad to Farragut Square, from anywhere to H Street. When faced with the inevitable (and of course illegal, but who's counting) refusal of service from countless cabs on any given weekend night (to be fair, they are usually quite friendly in the light of day), myself and other young women I know see Uber as an important addition to our personal safety. Until the Council is able to present a taxicab system that is clean, well-regulated, and understands its business incentives (and on top of that, doesn't leave women alone on the street at night because they want to go to somewhere as terrible and out-of-the-way as ::gasp:: Cathedral Heights), I will continue to use Uber as a safe, reliable way of getting around.

If you put Uber out of business with thoughtless policy, it won't result in me taking more cabs...I can think of more than a few people like me who would rather decide to just not spend that money anywhere.

Regards,

Kelsey Flora



**From:** [Taylor, Rebecca Racosky](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment by Jack Evans  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:39:52 AM

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Councilman Brown –

I am a District citizen and I strongly oppose the implementation of a minimum far for the Uber car service. I love this service and think what the city council is doing is not right. We finally have a company that is providing clean, efficient driving services to citizens and I think it is wrong to try to limit their ability to do business in the District, please do not enact this amendment.

I understand that Councilmember Evans is introducing an amendment that would have no minimum for Uber. I urge you to support this amendment so that Uber can continue to serve the public at reasonable prices.

Thank you

Rebecca Taylor

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Rebecca R. Taylor  
Senior Vice President  
NCMS

[REDACTED]

[www.ncms.org](http://www.ncms.org)

[REDACTED]

This Internet message may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure. It is intended for use only by the person to whom it is addressed. If you have received this in error, please (1) do not forward or use this information in any way; and (2) contact me immediately.

**From:** [rachel colyer](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment- don't raise rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:48:33 PM

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Dear DC Council Members,

I am very concerned to learn about an upcoming amendment that could set the Uber minimum at 5x the current DC cab rate. I do not want that to happen. I am also concerned such a significant pocketbook issue could be considered and changed so quickly. Please delay a vote on this until the public has the opportunity to weight their concerns.

I am concerned about the affordability of Uber as well as the jobs of the DC taxi drivers. One of the reasons I like Uber, is that I do not have to car cash in order to use there service. If DC cabs, like New York City and Philadelphia, took credit and debit I would be more likely to use them.

Please do not raise rates to such extremes and please weigh the public concern.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Colyer

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20011

--  
Rachel Colyer  
Associate Campaign Director  
Daily Kos

C: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Katherine Hanley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment for Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:46:56 PM

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Councilman Wells,

Please do not make Uber unable to roll out their new lower-priced service. As a frequent business traveler, I often call taxis to come to my home at early hours for airport dropoffs. 75% of the time, they would not show and I would have to walk around for 30 minutes trying to find one in a neighborhood where cabs are scarce at odd hours (Capitol Hill). Uber provides a reliable service that DC citizens like me and others NEED. When requested, their drivers actually show up.

A vote for this amendment is a vote against the tax paying citizens of DC -- many of the taxi drivers are not even DC residents! Please vote in the best interest of the citizens of DC and not for this amendment.

Thank you,

Katherine Hanley  


**From:** [Jimmy Ballew](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment is a blatant overreach of Government  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:09:44 PM

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To DC city council members:

Today I heard very distressing news from Uber, one of my favorite services available in the DC metro area. According to their blog posts, and linked language (<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>), the DC City council is planning on passing an amendment to the Taxi modernization act that will effectively destroy Uber's ability to compete against taxi cabs in DC. Setting a sedan lower limit at 5X the drop rate for taxi cabs is such an absurd thing to do. Why stifle innovation and competition? Why would you want to effectively shut down a service that provides a better, more modern fuel efficient car in lieu of the outdated taxi cabs? Currently I take Uber at all times in and around the district when I need a car service. This is because:

The app interface is more efficient than waiting on a street corner in the rain or 100 degree heat for a cab.

They take credit cards.

Tips are built into the fares, so I never have to worry about it.

The cars are better maintained.

They don't charge extra for extra passengers.

They don't charge for bags.

That last point is the reason I stopped taking DC cabs in the first place. The fact that a cab service charges you to transport a piece of luggage is dumbfounding. This type of price gouging would never persist in an open market, and Uber's recent growth demonstrates the public's demand for a better, more passenger-friendly system. But instead of allowing this service-based competition to continue, the DC city council plans to effectively legislate Uber out of the DC area. Seems to me that that bag fee is going in the city council's pockets.

If this passes, I will no longer have any alternatives to taxi cabs. Mind you, I still won't take them, for all of the deficiencies mentioned. I will instead drive (increasing the congestion already plaguing this city) or take the metro and walk.

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. This amendment represents everything that is wrong with government.

Sincerely

James Ballew

**From:** [Parker Agee](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment is un-American  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:29:48 AM

---

City Council Members:

The "Uber Amendment" is about as un-American as you can become. For a city council to set a MINIMUM price for a PRIVATE company is the root of corruption. I hope you would all set an example for the rest of America and vote against this amendment. Prove to Americans that we, the average American, can still pursue the American dream and create innovative companies without having to jump through bureaucratic, legal hoops to do so.

Please vote **AGAINST** the Uber Amendment.

Sincerely,

Parker Agee

**From:** [Parker Agee](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment is un-American  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:29:20 AM

---

City Council Members:

The "Uber Amendment" is about as un-American as you can become. For a city council to set a MINIMUM price for a PRIVATE company is the root of corruption. I hope you would all set an example for the rest of America and vote against this amendment. Prove to Americans that we, the average American, can still pursue the American dream and create innovative companies without having to jump through bureaucratic, legal hoops to do so.

Please vote **AGAINST** the Uber Amendment.

Sincerely,

Parker Agee



**From:** [Parker Agee](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment is un-American  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:22:40 AM

---

City Council Members:

The "Uber Amendment" is about as un-American as you can become. For a city council to set a MINIMUM price for a PRIVATE company is the root of corruption. I hope you would all set an example for the rest of America and vote against this amendment. Prove to Americans that we, the average American, can still pursue the American dream and create innovative companies without having to jump through bureaucratic, legal hoops to do so.

Please vote **AGAINST** the Uber Amendment.

Sincerely,

Parker Agee

**From:** [Katie Vlietstra](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment is Unfair  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:54 PM

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Good Afternoon-

I am disappointed to read the proposed "Uber Amendment" that the City Council will be reviewing tomorrow, I believe it is unfair to Uber and so clearly biased that it begs the question as to why the City Council would ever entertain such an amendment.

My experience with Uber has been nothing less than exceptional, while my taxi experiences range from exceptional to horrific (and incredibly dangerous); not only have I been refused service on multiple occasions, but more often the taxis that do service my requests have maintenance lights on, drivers who blatantly disregard basic traffic laws, and are rude.

I strongly urge you to vote against the Uber amendment and work to strengthen the many modes of transportation your citizens use, instead of unfairly punishing those that are providing a worthy service to this City and its citizens.

Regards,  
Katie Vlietstra

  
Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Peter Bonnell](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment min fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:58 PM

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Hi David - Hope you're well. Any chance of this passing with the minimum fare language taken out? As a non-car owner I've been sick of disgusting cabs for years and love Uber. Obviously, a lower cost Uber option would be great.

Pete

**From:** [Nishith Pandya](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Minimum Fair Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:58:21 PM

---

Councilmember Catania:

As a DC resident and your constituent, I am writing to respectfully ask you to vote against the absurd and anti-competitive minimum fare amendment to the taxicab modernization bill.

I, for one, am fed up with the taxi lobby consistently fighting to resist any regulatory improvements, maintain their monopolies, and raise fares again and again.

Time and time again cab fares have increased and services that are considered basic in other major metropolises, e.g. the ability to use credit cards, have remained inaccessible. In addition, I've found myself hard pressed at times to find a taxi that will drop me off on Capitol Hill or a driver who will adjust the vehicle temperature on extreme days without giving me a dirty look or grumbling.

Please stand with consumers and allow Uber to compete on a level playing field with taxicabs. Government should not be creating laws and regulations designed to stifle business competition – especially when this competition benefits the consumers.

Thank you,  
Nishith Pandya

**From:** [Nishith Pandya](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Minimum Fair Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:45 PM

---

Councilmember Wells:

As a DC resident and your constituent, I am writing to respectfully ask you to vote against the absurd and anti-competitive minimum fare amendment to the taxicab modernization bill.

I, for one, am fed up with the taxi lobby consistently fighting to resist any regulatory improvements, maintain their monopolies, and raise fares again and again.

Time and time again cab fares have increased and services that are considered basic in other major metropolises, e.g. the ability to use credit cards, have remained inaccessible. In addition, I've found myself hard pressed at times to find a taxi that will drop me off on Capitol Hill or a driver who will adjust the vehicle temperature on extreme days without giving me a dirty look or grumbling.

Please stand with consumers and allow Uber to compete on a level playing field with taxicabs. Government should not be creating laws and regulations designed to stifle business competition – especially when this competition benefits the consumers.

Thank you,  
Nishith Pandya

**From:** [Rebecca Sterzinar](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Minimum Fare  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:25:01 PM

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Mr. Wells,

Good afternoon. I am currently a Ward 6 resident, and I am greatly concerned about the proposed Uber Amendment's minimum fare language. It is my understanding that this amendment would prevent Uber from offering a lower price service in the District. Because DC Taxis simply do not fully meet the needs of DC residents, allowing Uber to offer a lower price service would provide a great benefit.

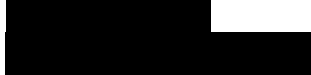
I utilize both Uber and DC Taxis on a regular basis. I choose between the two services based on, among other factors, whether I am in an area that is usually populated with a number of taxis, how far away an Uber might be, and time of day. I generally will use Uber if I am in an area where it is more difficult to get a taxi - DC taxis are still always my first choice. It makes much more sense to call an Uber than to wander around looking for a taxi, especially if it's late at night and I'm in an area where that might not be the smartest idea due to safety concerns, particularly if I am alone. It is both safer and more convenient in this instance to call an Uber because, unfortunately, even in instances where I have called DC Cabs to pick me up, I have never once had one actually show up. Uber has also been extremely helpful in instances when I have an early flight or train to catch. Pre-Uber, I had tried to schedule DC taxis to pick me up to make these flights and trains on time, and they would never show up. In my experience, Uber is not really a substitute for a DC taxi, but instead provides a service that was not available prior to the time Uber commenced operation late last year.

However, using Uber can be expensive, especially during times of high demand when surge pricing is in effect. A lower price service would allow Uber to be more accessible to residents who would benefit from Uber in ways similar to myself, but may find it prohibitively expensive. Unfortunately, DC taxis just do not truly fulfill the needs of this city, as is clearly evidenced by Uber's success.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. I urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language included in the Uber amendment, as it would be detrimental to many DC residents that rely on Uber to provide services that DC Cabs do not.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sterzinar



**From:** [Rick Ferrini](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Minimum Fare Language -- Strike It Down  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:30 PM

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Dear Council Members,

As the subject line above conveys, I think it would be a mistake to enact most of the Uber Amendment that you are voting on tomorrow. To begin with, Uber is a pretty great service. (Not always true of DC Taxi.) More importantly, the extremity of the minimum fare provision suggests either that the service Uber provides is somehow reprehensible (when, of course, it provides essentially the same service as any taxi company), or that DC Taxi retains, and will exercise, the influence to push out any real competitor. Thanks for your time and consideration.

--

Rick Ferrini



**From:** [Jill Brahms Keto](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment request  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:07:51 PM

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As a citizen, I would urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. It is sad and disastrous for working people to not have access to less expensive price for transportation (a fundamental need for working taxpayers).

Warmest Regards,  
Jill Keto



**From:** [Courtney Kopf](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment request  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:41:16 PM

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David,  
Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I appreciate Uber's quality service and the value it adds to our city.  
All the best,  
Courtney Kopf

--

Courtney Kopf  


**From:** [Courtney Kopf](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment request  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:40:19 PM

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Tommy,  
Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I appreciate Uber's quality service and the value it adds to our city.  
All the best,  
Courtney Kopf

--

Courtney Kopf  


**From:** [Courtney Kopf](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment request  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:37:49 PM

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Michael,  
Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I appreciate Uber's quality service and the value it adds to our city.  
All the best,  
Courtney Kopf

--

Courtney Kopf  


--

Courtney Kopf  


**From:** [Katherine B. Sinks](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment- STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:47 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I write as a concerned citizen of Ward 3 in Washington DC. I urge you to strike DOWN the Minimum Fare Amendment!

Uber Service deserves to remain in operation in DC, as is allowed in many other metropolitan areas across the United States! Government should not be enacting a price floor to keep uber out of the transportation industry. I rely on Uber as a safe and secure form of transportation. I am seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a market economy.

PLEASE STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE AMENDMENT!!!

Respectfully,  
Katherine B. Sinks

**From:** [Seneca Perri](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment strikedown  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:35:21 AM

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Dear Mr. Catania,

I am writing to request that you please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment today. This amendment acts as an attack on Uber as a DC government condoned attack on start-ups. It is an underhanded legal means to handicap innovation, which is the cardinal foundation of all American values, success, and freedom.

Best wishes,  
Seneca Perri

--

Seneca Perri, RN  
PhD Candidate, Nursing Informatics  
University of Utah College of Nursing

[REDACTED]  
US [REDACTED]

TZ +255 684883134

**From:** [Seneca Perri](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment strikedown  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:33:57 AM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to request that you please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment today. This amendment acts as an attack on Uber as a DC government condoned attack on start-ups. It is an underhanded legal means to handicap innovation, which is the cardinal foundation of all American values, success, and freedom.

Best wishes,  
Seneca Perri

--

Seneca Perri, RN  
PhD Candidate, Nursing Informatics  
University of Utah College of Nursing

[REDACTED]  
US [REDACTED]

TZ +255 684883134

**From:** [Seneca Perri](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment strikedown  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:31:19 AM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing to request that you please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment today. This amendment acts as an attack on Uber as a DC government condoned attack on start-ups. It is an underhanded legal means to handicap innovation, which is the cardinal foundation of all American values, success, and freedom.

Best wishes,  
Seneca Perri

--

Seneca Perri, RN  
PhD Candidate, Nursing Informatics  
University of Utah College of Nursing

[REDACTED]  
US [REDACTED]

TZ +255 684883134

**From:** [Christopher Clever](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:19:14 PM

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Councilman Catania,

Put simply, striking down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment allows an efficient business model in an industry full of poor service, inefficiency, and at worst, corruption, to give people access to affordable and convenient transportation in a way that benefits all parties. Not striking down this language protects and empowers an industry to continue to provide poor customer service, arbitrary rates (no matter what agreements are in place, I often see a blank meter, but due to the lack of available cabs, am forced to take it), and arbitrary service (people are refused service all the time based on where they are going). The public transportation in this city may have much to offer, but it does not have the quality to warrant outlawing a more affordable and convenient option.

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Christopher Clever  
Federal Employee

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009



**From:** [Christopher Clever](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:18:40 PM

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Councilman Brown,

Put simply, striking down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment allows an efficient business model in an industry full of poor service, inefficiency, and at worst, corruption, to give people access to affordable and convenient transportation in a way that benefits all parties. Not striking down this language protects and empowers an industry to continue to provide poor customer service, arbitrary rates (no matter what agreements are in place, I often see a blank meter, but due to the lack of available cabs, am forced to take it), and arbitrary service (people are refused service all the time based on where they are going). The public transportation in this city may have much to offer, but it does not have the quality to warrant outlawing a more affordable and convenient option.

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Christopher Clever  
Federal Employee

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Ian Lang](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:55 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

Like many users of Uber's car service, I received an email today outlining what would be an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for a service like Uber to offer prices that reflect market demand. As a frequent user of all forms of transportation (I do not own a vehicle), I'm writing to discourage your support for this amendment.

I am not a DC resident. I live in Arlington, which presents an entirely different set of challenges when using DC cab services. Late at night on a weekend, cab availability is limited to begin with, depending on where in the city I am. What's worse, most cab drivers outright refuse to take riders to Arlington. They'll ask where you want to be taken, and if it's anywhere outside the district, they often refuse to offer service. I know that practice is illegal in some cities, and I don't know if DC is one of them but if it is the law is not properly enforced. Even if I'm able to hail a cab, they often take deliberately long routes to drive up the fare, even though the initial fare is supposed to discourage that kind of behavior. Finally, to really end things on a sour note DC cabs are not required to accept credit cards, and I've yet to find one that does. Even if this is something written into the modernization bill, many Arlington drivers claim that their machines are mysteriously "broken" when a rider wants to use plastic to pay for a ride that the driver determined was insufficient in length to cover the cost of the exchange fee. I don't see why DC drivers would behave any differently.

With a service like Uber, I can use my phone to locate and reserve a vehicle that will come to me and only me, to take me wherever I want to go with no questions asked. There's no tipping and there isn't even an exchange of money with the driver - my credit card is billed by the service without me having to do anything. Yes, it is a bit more expensive than a taxi, but sometimes the added convenience is worth it.

If Uber wants to add a lower-cost service to its offerings, I don't see traditional cabs being pushed out or rendered obsolete by it, regardless of the price. Yes, Uber is convenient in a way, but it cannot replace the instantaneous convenience of hailing a passing taxi cab for impromptu trips. The same goes for trips within the district itself. If I'm in DC and need to go elsewhere in DC, I'm not going to wait to locate an Uber car, even if it is the same price. However, in situations like I outlined above, it's important to me to have a reliable option available to get home. If the DC city council wants to make it harder for people like me to get to and from DC, then they are in turn making it harder for people like me to spend money in DC.

I'm all for protecting the rights of workers in industries that provide a service like cabs, but only when there's a genuine threat to their well-being.

Kind Regards,

Ian Lang

**From:** [elliott warren](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:57 PM

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Councilman Wells,

My name is Elliott Warren, I am a Ward 6 resident, and I am emailing you to ask you to vote tomorrow to vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment you are scheduled to vote on tomorrow.

While I do not use Uber a lot, the few times I have utilized their service, I have been very pleased. I usually use taxis to travel around the city when I do not drive or use mass transit; however, to be honest with you, I have had a much better experience with the Uber service than the majority of DC cabbies. It would be nice to have a cheaper and more eco-friendly Uber option for those who would rather use their service.

I believe you should vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment, and I hope you do so tomorrow.

Thank you for your service.

All the best,

Elliott Warren

--

Elliott Brooks Warren  


**From:** [Juan Llanos](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote - Seriously?!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:08:36 PM

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Is it really your intention...

... to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**.

... to handicap a reliable, high-quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price.

... to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high

... to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians.

... to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC

... to formalize that principle into law?

SERIOUSLY?!

If that's the case, SHAME ON YOU!

Juan

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Date: Tue, 10 Jul 2012 14:54:10 +0000  
Subject: Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
From: [noreply@4hourworkweek.com](mailto:noreply@4hourworkweek.com)  
To: [REDACTED]

## Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups



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### [The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups](#)

Posted: 10 Jul 2012 01:15 AM PDT



**This man hates you and your start-up.**

Hi All,

This short post is more like a personal letter, because I just came across something that made me very angry. Namely, a tweet from my bud, Kevin Rose:

Wow, a business (Uber) is prevented from lowering its prices.. wait.. what? We live in America, right?

<http://tcrn.ch/NfYOT3>

In full disclosure, I've been an advisor to [Uber](#) from the beginning. They're amazing. I work with [20+ start-ups](#) because because I enjoy helping entrepreneurs who want to change the world. Small-business founders are the value creators of our economy. Period, end of story. But sometimes the corrupt (often with [a track record](#)) try to stifle the little guys. Incumbents don't like to compete. They enjoy their defacto monopolies, are accustomed to bilking customers at will, and don't want to change things. Pardon my Long Island French, but here's how I feel: Fuck those guys. Protecting the status quo doesn't impress me. In fact, it really pisses me off. [The last time I implored you to spend a few minutes](#) to change laws, we helped successfully ban the distribution and sale of shark fins in Washington and California, the latter being the largest importer of shark fins in the United States. YOUR TINY ACTIONS, PUT TOGETHER, CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS. Below is a snapshot of the Uber situation from [the TechCrunch article](#), and I have a little ask at the end. It'll get you some good karma:

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high-quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high – but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday [today!], the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

...

### Take Action

#### THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT [TODAY]!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. **Call/write as many of them as possible!**

Phil Mendelson (Chairman), (202) [REDACTED]  
Mary Cheh, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), (202) [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)  
Michael Brown, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)  
Jim Graham, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] [@jimgrahamward1](#)  
Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)  
Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)  
Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [kenyanmcduffie](#)  
Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)  
Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)  
Marion Barry, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)  
David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)  
Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED]

[@vincentorangedc](#)

Those of you who read this blog know that I never write posts like this.

But I take this attack on Uber as a DC government-condoned attack on start-ups. I view it as an entrenched middle finger from incumbents who aren't willing to improve their product or lower prices. Instead, they resort to underhanded legal means to handicap innovation. It makes my blood boil.

So, here's what I'm going to do.

**1) I'm going to e-mail every one of the above people today and tell them to read this post. E-mail helps, but phone is better...**

**2) Personally, I'm going to call every one of them today and politely but firmly ask them to "strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment." I will have my assistants do the same. This shouldn't take more than 20 minutes or so, but I won't ask that of you...**

**3) I'm going to ask you all — the 1,000,000+ unique readers of this blog — to call as many of the above as possible. Let's aim for the first four. But there's more...** Politely but firmly, get the name of the person you're speaking with, tell them you'd like them to "strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment" and then ***ask them if they're in favor of innovation or incumbents***. Last, indicate that you'll be putting their responses in the comments below.

—  
This DC attack could set a horrible precedent for start-ups trying to improve any space with large incumbents. If you have a few minutes, please make one phone call. It will earn you positive karma... and the knowledge that you didn't stand still and watch Goliath snuff out David with his thumb. There's something real to be said for that.

Sorry for the rant, but this one is legitimate. To my mind, it cannot go unanswered.

**Please spread the call to action far and wide. This is time-sensitive and needs to happen ASAP today.**



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Google Inc., 20 West Kinzie, Chicago IL USA 60610

**From:** [eliza\\_young](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:40:01 PM

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Hello,

I am a homeowner and resident of Ward 5 in Washington DC. I am writing to ask that the council strike down the minimum fare language from the uber amendment tomorrow.

I am baffled in trying to understand why the council feels that it is in the public's best interest to prevent any threat of competition to the DC taxi system. i have lived in 5 US cities and 4 international cities and the DC taxi system is by far one of the worst I have ever experienced. Taxi's are poorly maintained, drivers are rude, rates are inconsistent, fares are much higher then in other cities and drivers are often extremely rude. I often do not feel save riding in DC taxis late at night and I am already frustrated that we are not allowed to be picked up my Red Top Cabs (out of arlington) as they are the ONLY organized and reliable taxi company in the region. I have have 2 different friends who have been hit by Taxi's in the U street area.

Friends and family who have visited us over the years are often appalled by their DC taxi experiences. Taxi's do not take credit cards, drive run down cars that have not been maintained and have policies and charge rates that have no foundation! (For example, why is it illegal for a taxi to make multiple stops without restarting the meter- this makes absolutely no sense). The worst part is that our taxis are gen

Why is the council not supportive of another cost competitive transport option for its resident? To me this just seems another case of entrenched politicians looking out for the interest of corrupt DC organizations instead of the residents that they are meant to serve.

Please consider allowing Uber to operate freely within the district. It will be good for residents and visitors alike.

Eliza Notides Young  
[REDACTED]  
Washington DC 20001

--  
Eliza Notides  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [James Thomas King](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment, concerned citizens  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:42:00 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

My wife and I are current residents of Ward 6, living at 1025 1st st SE in the Velocity Condominium building. We previously lived at 1390 V St NW for four years. I am writing to you concerning the proposed amendment to increase the minimum fare for a sedan-class vehicle: 8 (c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a). I can only assume the taxi commission proposed this amendment to preclude the Uber car service from operations in the District of Columbia. I expect you will, in the interest of residents and the city council, vote against this amendment as it is against principles of a free market and unfairly props up a sub-standard service. The DC taxi service is quite possibly the worst in any major metropolitan area in the United States and quite possibly the developed world. This industry should not be rewarded if you expect to make the District of Columbia a world class destination. Every friend of ours who visits for personal or professional reasons is abhorred at the level of service received from DC taxis; it's an embarrassment.

Taxi companies do not respond to requests to have drivers pick up fares at a specific time and place - even when an email confirmation and number are sent to the requestor. On no fewer than three occasions in the past year we have made a reservation with a cab company to pick us up for a ride to the airport. On each attempt the taxi did not arrive, when we contacted the dispatcher they were unable to locate a cab to take us to the airport within a reasonable amount of time. Fortunately, in the past six months we have been able to contact an Uber driver to execute our fare for a reasonable price when the taxi did not arrive.

Taxis in the city also have dreadfully filthy interiors, the drivers do not know where they're going even when the requested destination is a commonly-known landmark in DC, they operate their vehicles in a haphazard manner and they do not accept credit cards nor provide receipts. All of these should be cornerstones for a service industry serving individuals who can provide economic growth to this city as residents, businessmen and tourists. On the contrary, Uber drivers operate clean, modern and safe vehicles; are able to identify the best route through the city; drive in a safe manner and provide a very effective billing process which is easily recordable for business purchases and travel claims.

If Uber is able to promptly deliver fares in a reasonable amount of time with a professional disposition and in a nicer car, there is no reason a taxi service could not do the same. Therefore, in the interests of residents and the city council, there is absolutely no reason to prevent Uber from operating within the city. If the taxi associations do not want to lose fares, they should operate more effectively and efficiently. If they cannot, they should go out of business, just as any other business, store or restaurant in the city that cannot match the service of a superior competitor. Allowing the taxi commission to influence commerce when this city is on the verge of becoming an economically viable place for residents and businesses alike would be a step in the wrong direction - a step on the slippery slope leading us back twenty years to the times of Marion Barry when DC was synonymous with



crime, corruption, filth, and failed business.

Regards,

James King

**From:** [James Thomas King](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment, concerned Ward 6 resident  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:41:31 PM

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Mr. Wells,

My wife and I are current residents of Ward 6, living at 1025 1st st SE in the Velocity Condominium building. We previously lived at 1390 V St NW for four years. I am writing to you concerning the proposed amendment to increase the minimum fare for a sedan-class vehicle: 8 (c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a). I can only assume the taxi commission proposed this amendment to preclude the Uber car service from operations in the District of Columbia. I expect you will, in the interest of residents and the city council, vote against this amendment as it is against principles of a free market and unfairly props up a sub-standard service. The DC taxi service is quite possibly the worst in any major metropolitan area in the United States and quite possibly the developed world. This industry should not be rewarded if you expect to make the District of Columbia a world class destination. Every friend of ours who visits for personal or professional reasons is abhorred at the level of service received from DC taxis; it's an embarrassment.

Taxi companies do not respond to requests to have drivers pick up fares at a specific time and place - even when an email confirmation and number are sent to the requestor. On no fewer than three occasions in the past year we have made a reservation with a cab company to pick us up for a ride to the airport. On each attempt the taxi did not arrive, when we contacted the dispatcher they were unable to locate a cab to take us to the airport within a reasonable amount of time. Fortunately, in the past six months we have been able to contact an Uber driver to execute our fare for a reasonable price when the taxi did not arrive.

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crime, corruption, filth and failed business.

Regards,

James King

**From:** [Dobbndc](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment, strike the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:53:09 PM

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Councilman Catania,  
I just learned that the DC City Council intends to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

As a long time resident at 1246 Girard St NW, I find this very hard to comprehend or even rationalize. How is a fair and open fare price-setting not the better way for a competitive market to thrive?

This would seem government interference at its highest and ugliest form by doing this, The Council will prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington, so I urge you on the vote tomorrow, to eliminate the minimum fare language and please DO NOT vote to formalize that principle into law.

Thank you,

Steve Dobberowsky

Washington, DC citizen

**From:** [Dobbndc](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment, strike the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:51:26 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I just learned that the DC City Council intends to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

As a long time resident at 1246 Girard St NW, I find this very hard to comprehend or even rationalize. How is a fair and open fare price-setting not the better way for a competitive market to thrive?

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Thank you,

Steve Dobberowsky

Washington, DC citizen

**From:** [Dobbndc](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über amendment, strike the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:50:10 PM

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Councilman Brown,

I just learned that the DC City Council intends to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

As a long time resident at 1246 Girard St NW, I find this very hard to comprehend or even rationalize. How is a fair and open fare price-setting not the better way for a competitive market to thrive?

This would seem government interference at its highest and ugliest form by doing this, The Council will prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**.

Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington, so I urge you on the vote tomorrow, to eliminate the minimum fare language and please DO NOT vote to formalize that principle into law.

Thank you,

Steve Dobberowsky

Washington, DC citizen

**From:** [Gregory D.Foley](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:06:42 PM

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I am writing you to ask that you strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. I believe Uber raises the level of reliability and increases the ease of taking an alternative mode of transportation in the district and needs to be kept affordable. Depending on where you are within the DC, at certain times it can be near impossible or a lengthy wait to find a DC taxi. As you know, all of us Washingtonians are too short of time. Uber is a positive addition to DC.

I have already emailed my Council person, Mr Evans; as well as the Chairman, Mr. Mendelson. It was suggest I share my support with the members at-large.

Thank you,  
Gregory D. Foley, OD, FAAO



Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Gregory D. Foley](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED] [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:02:35 PM

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I am writing you to ask that you strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. I believe Uber raises the level of reliability and increases the ease of taking an alternative mode of transportation in the district and needs to be kept affordable. Depending on where you are within the DC, at certain times it can be near impossible or a lengthy wait to find a DC taxi. As you know, all of us Washingtonians are too short of time. Uber is a positive addition to DC.

I have already emailed my Council person, Mr Evans; as well as the Chairman, Mr. Mendelson. It was suggest I share my support with the members at-large.

Thank you,  
Gregory D. Foley, OD, FAAO

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009



**From:** [Ajeet Prakash](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Ajeet Prakash](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:08:29 AM

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Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Now is your chance to show you support innovation, entrepreneurship and the revival of the US economy.

It's about maintaining a system of meritocracy and a free market.

**From:** [Katy Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment.  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:08:34 PM

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As both a taxicab passenger and Uber customer, I was shocked to learn the Council intends to approve language that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or offer a low-cost service in any form.

I vehemently oppose ANY efforts by the DC City Council to take such action.

To limit DC resident's options for transportation is counterintuitive to me and I hope the Council will strike any language that would impede a new business.

Competition is EXACTLY what the DC taxicab industry needs. I'm tired of riding in cabs that smell foul, don't have change or accept credit cards, have broken air conditioning, dirty interiors and drivers that are both unsafe and distracted by their cell phone conversations.

Don't penalize Uber for offering a superior alternative.

Sincerely,

DC Resident & Voter  
Katy Thomas  
1200 block E St, NE

**From:** [Brian Frankel](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment: Please eliminate the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:31:24 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Hello,

Please eliminate the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment. As a business attorney in D.C. since 2007, Please eliminate the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment, I help build companies and jobs in and around the District. I was disappointed to hear about an amendment that hurts competition in the market, paints D.C as a corrupt fiefdom, and sends the wrong message to the investor community about transparency and fairness in our local marketplace of ideas.

Again, please eliminate the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment!

With kind regards,

Brian A. Frankel, Esq.

***Luck is the product of hard work, ability, and dedication.***

This communication may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. It is intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you are not an intended recipient, you may not use, read, retransmit, disseminate or take any action in reliance upon it . Please notify the sender that you have received it in error and immediately delete the entire communication, including any attachments.

**From:** [Danielle D'Onfro](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment: Please oppose rent-seeking  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:51:49 PM

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Dear Councilmembers Brown, Catania, and Orange:

It has come to my attention that the DC City Council will vote tomorrow on the an amendment to the codes governing how sedan services compete with taxicabs. I write to urge you to oppose this amendment because it limits competition in the transportation market. I am specifically concerned with the provision which would prohibit sedans from charging less than five times the rate that taxicabs charge. Ostensibly, this restriction is to ensure that sedan service remains a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service. I ask: why is the city council concerned that a convenient service may become less expensive and therefore available to a greater number of residents?

The answer: rent-seeking. This is clearly an attempt to protect taxicabs at the expense of innovation and consumer choice. Uber, the service most-commonly cited as competing with taxicabs, has developed an efficient way for me to call a cab when I am in parts of the city that are not yet so gentrified that cabs are readily available. For example, I am more likely to socialize around the Nationals Stadium after a game since I know that I will be able to easily get a ride home when the streets are empty and the subway has stopped for the night. No taxicab company has a reliable way for me to order a cab online. Yellowcab's website occasionally takes reservations but it is down more often than not. This amendment would protect entrenched interests at the expense of a company seeking to make private transportation more convenient and with it, developing neighborhoods more accessible.

Moreover, The city council is not the right body to ensure that sedan service remains a "premium" service. Indeed, by setting an artificially high floor on prices, it will become more difficult to tell which sedans indeed offer premium service--better, cleaner cars, perks, etc--from those which do not. Price is not a perfect proxy for quality, but in under-branded industries sub as taxicabs and sedans, it is often the best proxy available.

Finally, The only beneficiary of this amendment is the taxicab industry. While I am sympathetic to concerns about living wages above the minimum wage, I question the social good of propping up some resident's wages over others. Why only taxicabs? Why not set floors on prices charged by dry cleaners, contractors, and home health aids? This amendment proposes to selectively raise the minimum wage for one class of workers. As a former federal employee with a frozen salary, I am hard-pressed to find this to be a good use of the city council's time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Danielle D'Onfro

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Danielle D'Onfro](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment: Please oppose rent-seeking  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:42:20 PM

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Dear Councilman Evans,

It has come to my attention that the DC City Council will vote tomorrow on the an amendment to the codes governing how sedan services compete with taxicabs. I write to urge you to oppose this amendment because it limits competition in the transportation market. I am specifically concerned with the provision which would prohibit sedans from charging less than five times the rate that taxicabs charge. Ostensibly, this restriction is to ensure that sedan service remains a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service. I ask: why is the city council concerned that a convenient service may become less expensive and therefore available to a greater number of residents?

The answer: rent-seeking. This is clearly an attempt to protect taxicabs at the expense of innovation and consumer choice. Uber, the service most-commonly cited as competing with taxicabs, has developed an efficient way for me to call a cab when I am in parts of the city that are not yet so gentrified that cabs are readily available. For example, I am more likely to socialize around the Nationals Stadium after a game since I know that I will be able to easily get a ride home when the streets are empty and the subway has stopped for the night. No taxicab company has a reliable way for me to order a cab online. Yellowcab's website occasionally takes reservations but it is down more often than not. This amendment would protect entrenched interests at the expense of a company seeking to make private transportation more convenient and with it, developing neighborhoods more accessible.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Danielle D'Onfro

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Matt Vredenburg](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER amendment: STRIKE DOWN price fixing  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:41:36 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing as a concerned DC citizen adamantly opposed to the Uber amendment in the astonishingly long-awaited taxi reform bill. Let me start by saying, as a young person who travels in the U.S. for business, that DC has far and away the worst taxi system in the country. The worst. From the drivers (many of whom have trouble speaking English), to the condition of the cars (many of which are purchased from Newark, NJ which is where old NYC taxi cabs are grave-yarded after 300,000 miles...I ask the drivers where they got it and what year it is), to the terrible/unsafe driving (I would be very interested to know what % of accidents in DC involve a taxi), to not knowing where/how to get to ANYTHING in the city (even very popular and historic sights), to the fact that when you step into a DC cab you know they will try to rip you off; it is almost like you enter a third-world country. And third-world country may very well be what this amendment is trying to be! UBER'S service allows for a safe, reliable, comfortable, efficient, and cost-effective transportation...which the DC taxis cannot and do not provide. Thus why Uber has found DC to be its fastest growing market...because the current product (DC taxis) are the worst.

Council member Cheh's defense that you negotiated in "good faith" with Uber is a non-issue! This is an issue of oppressive government and price fixing. Council members, please look up NYC's taxi commission and give them a call; learn from them—NYC cares about the consumer (which in turn creates higher revenues for the drivers) and not the corrupt institution that has been running the city into the ground.

Wake up!

-Matt

Zone 3



**From:** [Jimmy Burdette](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment: Strike Down the Minimum Fare  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:52 PM

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Mr. Catania,

I am writing this message in response to the so-called "Uber Amendment" your Council is scheduled to vote on tomorrow. As a resident of this city, I strongly urge you to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.

I live in an area that has begun to experience some redevelopment over the past few years, though many DC cab drivers still view with a very negative opinion. For this reason, any time I have attempted to hail a cab on the streets near my house, I've found that DC taxicabs rarely drive through my streets. Further, on several occasions, I have been refused service from DC taxicab drivers who do not want to take me to my destination, despite the illegality of this practice. I continue to specify "DC taxicab drivers" in these statements, because I want to differentiate these drivers from Uber's. Uber drivers have provided fantastic service to my area of town, and are always prompt and friendly whether picking me up or dropping me off in these locations.

Uber provides a fantastic service that DC taxicab drivers are not willing to provide in my area. I applaud their efforts to further enhance the customer's experience through their offering of UberX, thus reducing the fees associated with their rides. As Uber seems to be the only car or taxi service in the DC area that cares about their customer and is working to improve their ability to meet our needs, I feel they are being unfairly discriminated against with this Uber Amendment, creating a price floor for the services they offer.

This is an issue I feel strongly about and I appreciate your consideration of this. As a US citizen and representative in this city, it is your duty to protect free markets and not create an unneeded cost floor to protect our corrupt taxi industry. Decisions like these are what residents will remember come election time.

Thank you,  
James Burdette  
Ward 1 Resident

**From:** [Kevin Warr](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment: Strike down the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:46 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear DC Council Member,

I am writing to ask you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment tomorrow. The minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment is a clear example of punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. More competition will improve the taxi industry in the District and improve the lives of its citizens. I encourage you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Dr. Kevin Warr

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Kevin Warr, PhD  
2818 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
# 503  
Washington, DC 20008  
[REDACTED]  
Skype: kevincwarr

**From:** [Suezy Keller](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:47:10 AM

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Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers,

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the "Uber Amendments" as outlined in Councilmember Cheh's Bill 19-630, the "Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012." The proposed language lacks foresight, arbitrarily establishes a perpetual price floor on an independent business and continues the District's longstanding policy of, with the exception of the former Mayor Fenty forcing a move to a metered system, completely kowtowing to an industry that continues to have persistent issues with accountability, consistency of service. ability to charge riders properly and fleet maintenance.

I live and work in the District of Columbia and as you are all acutely aware our taxi system has been in dire need of modernization for years. While I do agree with much of the language in the proposed amendment I cannot understand why the Council would invite further shame on itself by effectively creating a monopoly for the taxicab industry at the expense of private enterprise and the residents of the District of Columbia. For the record, you should all note that the private sector began to solve the District's taxicab woes with the arrival of an effective alternative , not the District government. It should speak volumes to each of you that many residents would rather pay a premium and wait longer to ride in an Uber car than take a taxi.

I would like to specifically point out the shortsightedness of the "minimum fare" language in Section 8 of the proposed amendment. By pegging Uber's minimum price to five times that of the drop rate for a taxi the Council is ensuring that every time the taxicab drivers strike a better deal for themselves with the DC Taxicab Commission and increases their drop rate, Uber's will have to follow suit. Why would the Council want to force a company to charge the resident's of the District of Columbia more for a service, regardless of whether or not that company wants to raise prices? There is zero public interest for mandating a price floor for sedan and competitive alternatives to taxi service. This regulation will destroy an otherwise functioning market to unfairly benefit a single group of people.

The minimum fare language would also prevent Uber from bringing a lower cost hybrid fleet to the District, something the District government has been trying and failing to get done for years. Yet when presented with an opportunity to actually achieve this goal Council decides to legislate it out of existence.

If the amendment is passed as written I would expect a vocal backlash, and not just from the large group of taxicab drivers that protested outside the Wilson Building today, July 9th. Why the Council would want to continue to placate a taxicab industry that continues to fight change every step of the way is beyond my ability of comprehension. Why the Council would also wish to represent itself as being in the business of reducing competition in the marketplace at the expense of consumers and private enterprise is also beyond my ability of comprehension.

I urge you to reconsider the "Uber Amendments" and to not pass Bill 19-630 if the language is kept in it.

Sincerely,

Suezy Keller  
Ward 3

**From:** [Philippe Vanderhoydonck](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:57:26 AM

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Dear City Council members,

After reading the following article, I think it's a disgrace what you guys are trying to do:

- <http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/09/dc-city-councils-uber-amendment-would-force-sedans-to-charge-5x-taxi-prices-and-kill-uberx/>

In some way, I could understand you wanting to protect the cab drivers from a new competitor.

But isn't it your duty to serve the people of your city?

Shouldn't you decide on what's best for them?

Of course, a new competitor will hurt the position of the incumbents. But that's the natural way of business. So why would you stop that? The incumbents will have to evolve but the industry will eventually be better for it.

Hope you will really consider how to vote on this matter.

Startups rule the world.

Sincerely,

Philippe Vanderhoydonck

Note: I live in Belgium so I'm not influenced by your decision in any way. I just really believe in the power of free market and startups disrupting industries for the better.

**From:** [Jim Holm](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:52:54 PM

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Dear DC Council Members:

I have just been informed that the DC Council will soon consider amendments to laws governing the operation of taxicabs in DC that would set minimum fares for sedan car services such as Uber. As a frequent Uber user and a DC voter, I strongly urge you to vote against these amendments.

Taxi service in Washington DC is an embarrassment, and competitors like Uber offer one market-driven way to encourage taxi operators to improve their services. By legally limiting the fares that Uber can charge, not only will this healthy competition be undermined, but a service that provides a superior product (on call car service) will be hamstrung by an unnecessary and unfair law.

Except for Council Member Cheh, in whose district I have never lived, I have voted for all of you in past elections. I will reconsider my support for your future candidacies if you vote in favor of the Uber amendments.

Sincerely,  
Jim Holm

  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [David McNitt](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendments to B19-0630  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:24:17 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I am writing to encourage you to vote against the 'Uber Amendment' to the DC Taxicab Commission Service Improvement Amendment Act (B19-0630).

While I am blessed with the Shaw Metro station and co-located Capitol Bikeshare Station, I live in an area in Ward 6 where it isn't always very easy to hail a taxi. Additionally, I have not found a taxi company that offers reliable scheduling services or one that is capable of informing me if a scheduled pick-up is going to be late or isn't going to happen.

I have found Uber to be a reliable service that leverages technology to keep me informed. Their drivers have been uniformly capable, courteous and responsible. I use the service sparingly, because it is a more expensive option, however it is also worth the premium when I need it.

Increasing the minimum fare, and the minimum rate would negatively impact Uber's rate flexibility within the district. I understand the need to protect the economic interests of the taxi cab industry - they provide an important service that sedan services will never replace. However, Uber deserves to be an alternative for riders without statutory fare and rate minimums.

Thank you for your leadership on transportation and smart growth. I also would like to thank you for your visibility and accessibility in Shaw; it is appreciated by your recently redistricted constituents.

Sincerely,

David McNitt

[Redacted Signature]

**From:** [Whittaker Hamilton](#)  
**To:** ["Whittaker Hamilton"](#)  
**Subject:** uber ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:02:44 PM

---

Can you please think carefully on the long term impacts of uber ammendment.clause.

Introducing this clause is price fixing and not allowing a full and open market competition. It also stops new technology allowing the public to benefit,  
Lower fares by the use of more environmental vehicles should be important to people.

**From:** [Neil Hallimen](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:19:14 PM

---

Hello Mr. Catania,

From time to time I am confronted with an issue regarding the freedoms of people in this country and how big corporations' bottom lines are standing in the way of those freedoms. The Minimum Fare language in the Uber Ammendment seems to be another one of those instances. This is a country founded on the idea that competition brings positive change and that the American dream can be achieved by anyone with a great idea and the work ethic to make that idea come to life. Uber has an innovative business model for public transportation. One that may put the taxi business in jeopardy. Something that would force the taxi business to think differently about how they do business and serve their customers. That's the natural flow of capitalism. That's America. Change happens and we hope that it's for the better. We don't ride around in horse and buggies anymore. If this is the next step in public transportation then so be it. I urge you to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.

I ask you, are you for incumbents or innovation?

Thank you for your time.

-Neil Hallimen



**From:** [Neil Hallimen](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:19:08 PM

---

Hello Mr. Wells,

From time to time I am confronted with an issue regarding the freedoms of people in this country and how big corporations' bottom lines are standing in the way of those freedoms. The Minimum Fare language in the Uber Ammendment seems to be another one of those instances. This is a country founded on the idea that competition brings positive change and that the American dream can be achieved by anyone with a great idea and the work ethic to make that idea come to life. Uber has an innovative business model for public transportation. One that may put the taxi business in jeopardy. Something that would force the taxi business to think differently about how they do business and serve their customers. That's the natural flow of capitalism. That's America. Change happens and we hope that it's for the better. We don't ride around in horse and buggies anymore. If this is the next step in public transportation then so be it. I urge you to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.

I ask you, are you for incumbents or innovation?

Thank you for your time.

-Neil Hallimen

**From:** [Neil Hallimen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:04:21 PM

---

Hello Mr. Brown,

From time to time I am confronted with an issue regarding the freedoms of people in this country and how big corporations' bottom lines are standing in the way of those freedoms. The Minimum Fare language in the Uber Ammendment seems to be another one of those instances. This is a country founded on the idea that competition brings positive change and that the American dream can be achieved by anyone with a great idea and the work ethic to make that idea come to life. Uber has an innovative business model for public transportation. One that may put the taxi business in jeopardy. Something that would force the taxi business to think differently about how they do business and serve their customers. That's the natural flow of capitalism. That's America. Change happens and we hope that it's for the better. We don't ride around in horse and buggies anymore. If this is the next step in public transportation then so be it. I urge you to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.

I ask you, are you for incumbents or innovation?

Thank you for your time.

-Neil Hallimen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:20:27 AM

---

Dear Sir,

Please strike the minimum fare language from this potential travesty of justice.

RE: The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high-quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high – but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday [today!], the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

Chris DeVuono

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:51:36 AM

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DC City Council

I agree with Tim Ferris and TechCrunch that your decision to restrict the pricing of Uber car service is terrible. Stop meddling with free enterprise and give the small guy a chance. America should be about encouraging the small guy, not about protecting the monopoly of the big guy. Let them compete, don't hamstring them from the start.

Do the right thing!

J. Todd Roach  
Oskaloosa, IA

Tim Ferriss link: <http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/>

**From:** [David Jochum](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:04:25 AM

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If you vote in favor of the Uber amendment I will donate money to your opponent next election. Please do the right thing. I am a small business owner in Ward 6.

r/David Jochum

**From:** [Paul D'Eramo](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:04:21 AM

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Good Morning,

As a resident of the District, I am emailing you to request that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber ammendment. This is a safe, reliable, and inexpensive service that is offered to your CONSTITUENTS who are tired of the unreliability and lack of customer service that taxi organizations provide. This is a blatant sign of the effect that the taxi industry has over our local legislature and, with all of the issues regarding the local DC government lately, unfortunately not surprising. Please prove me wrong and do the right thing. Please understand that this service promotes safety for those in your district and approving this fare hike for Uber is irresponsible and outrageous. Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber ammendment.

Paul D'Eramo

**From:** [Alexandra Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:09:16 PM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

I know tomorrow you will be voting on the uber ammendment tomorrow and I write to strongly suggest you vote to strike down the minimum fare language. I think the UBER service is fabulous, creative and a model for what should be happening in DC - creative solutions to outdated business models. The DC taxi industry has been protected for too long and has had too much influence over local politicians -- I hope you stand against together against them.

Thanks,  
Alexandra Fisher

**From:** [Alexandra Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:07:00 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

I know tomorrow you will be voting on the uber ammendment tomorrow and I write to strongly suggest you vote to strike down the minimum fare language. I think the UBER service is fabulous, creative and a model for what should be happening in DC - creative solutions to outdated business models. The DC taxi industry has been protected for too long and has had too much influence over local politicians -- I hope you stand against together against them.

Thanks,  
Alexandra Fisher



**From:** [Fernando Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:04 PM

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I for one absolutely LOVE Uber, they are prompt, clean, courteous, obey traffic laws, affordable, very dependent and just love their service! They are everything the DC Taxi Cabs are NOT!

#UberDCLove keep it alive!

## Part B. — Uber Amendments

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase “public vehicle-for-hire ride” and insert the phrase “taxicab ride” in its place.

### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify that the 50-cent taxicab surcharge applies to taxicabs.

7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase “The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to” and insert the phrase “On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to” in its place.

## Explanation and Rationale

- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read as follows:

“(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

“(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

“(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

“(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

“(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

“(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

“(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a receipt that lists the origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and  
“(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section.”.

### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify how sedan services operate.
- Sedans would be required to charge a minimum fare of 5 times the drop rate for taxicabs.
- Sedans would be required to charge time and distance rates that are greater as those for taxicabs.
- These requirements would ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service.
- This section would also clarify that businesses that connect passengers to sedans are exempt from regulation so long as they provide an estimated fare, disclose rates, provide a receipt, and use sedans licensed by the Commission to operate in the District.

--

Fernando Garcia, GRI  
Realtor, Senior Associate  
Continental Properties, Ltd.  
[www.MetroNando.com](http://www.MetroNando.com)

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**From:** [Tommy Maples](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [evolve\\_logo\\_100\\_66.png](#)

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DC City Council,

I do not support your proposed law regarding Uber. Please make the following amendments to the bill's language.

#### Part B. — Uber Amendments

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase "public vehicle-for-hire ride" and insert the phrase "taxicab ride" in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

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7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase "The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to" and insert the phrase "On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to" in its place.

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- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

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"(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

"(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

"(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

"(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

"(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are

provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

"(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a receipt that lists the origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and

"(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section."

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify how sedan services operate.
- Sedans would be required to charge a minimum fare of 5 times the drop rate for taxicabs.
- Sedans would be required to charge time and distance rates that are greater as those for taxicabs.
- These requirements would ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service.
- This section would also clarify that businesses that connect passengers to sedans are exempt from regulation so long as they provide an estimated fare, disclose rates, provide a receipt, and use sedans licensed by the Commission to operate in the District.

Best Wishes,

Tommy Maples

Evolve Media Production

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**From:** [Sean Milich](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:51:33 PM

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Hello,  
I am writing to ask that you strongly reconsider passing a law prohibiting Uber from offering a low-cost service.  
Thanks!  
Sean

**From:** [Alex Hebeler](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Ammendment - Please strike the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:20:45 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Uber's modern, efficient, luxurious service is a welcome addition to the city's transportation options, as clearly demonstrated by the demand for their product. As residents of Ward 6, my neighbors and I have lived for years with this city's frustratingly unreliable, inconvenient and inaccessible taxi services. Now, thanks to good, clever entrepreneurship, we finally have an alternative. Please let fair competition work as it should. A new business providing a superior product at a reasonable price should not be blocked from being allowed to compete. A Council voting to include the minimum fare language will surely call into question what constituency is being represented in such a move. Please think of what is best for the residents of the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincereley,

Alexander Hebeler

**From:** [Mark Roush](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and a taxi alternative  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:49:16 PM

---

Dear District of Columbia Council Members,


I am writing, as a citizen of the District of Columbia and a business owner to lodge a formal complaint against a possible law being enacted tomorrow in regards to a company like Uber being able to operate freely in the District. I don't know if you have ever tried to call a cab and actually get it to meet you at your home or anyplace else in the district, but it is impossible. I've waited many times and they NEVER show up. They say the cab is on the way, but while the cab is on the way it sees someone else with their hand in the air and they never actually arrive at my home, office, or anyplace else that I might be at the time.

For that reason I am completely on board with Uber which provides an alternative to taxi cabs. Not only are the cars much nicer but they show up when they say they will. This service is NOT available in the District, and my understanding is that now a law is about to be passed that will prohibit them from charging reasonable fees for their services. How, in this economy, can the council do something to not only prohibit a business from providing services that are in high demand, and at the same time deprive its citizens from being able to get where they need to go?


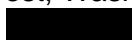
I am shocked that this new law is even under consideration. If this does pass then we can only assume that the rumors are true that the taxi industry has so much experience influencing our local politicians that a viable alternative to the present taxi system in Washington, DC will be prohibited. What could they be afraid of? Being held to a higher standard? If a problem did not exist, then neither would Uber.

Please count me as a Vote against the law. My friends and I will be watching to see who votes which way, and we are hoping that the Council will decide to do the right thing.

--Mark A. Roush

  
Washington, DC 20009

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Mark A. Roush, Principal – Operations & Recruitment  
**4Staff, LLC** – **A HUBZone Certified Small Business**  
1001 G Street NW, Suite 425 West, Washington, DC 20001  
P: (202)  - F: (202)  - E: [mark@4Staffllc.com](mailto:mark@4Staffllc.com)



**From:** [Britney Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:09 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

I first moved to Washington, D.C. in 2005. I love this city. I often boast of getting to live here to my friends elsewhere in the country. We have a lot going for us. Unfortunately, the taxi cab system is not one of them.

In my experience (and I take cabs often) Taxi drivers in this city can be rude, unsafe, and hostile. I have been screamed at by taxi drivers for as little as asking one to turn down his blaring music so I could make a telephone call. I have been lied to by drivers and had drivers refuse to drive me to a location within the District. Cabs are often in disrepair and lacking air conditioning. Cabs also do not take credit cards and charge extra if one needs to stop to get cash. And, if not the most infuriating, their licenses are often hidden under the front, passenger side visor making it impossible to learn the identity of the driver without extra effort and without likely making the driver mad. In sum, the taxi cab system in DC is disgusting and broken.

Uber is a breath of fresh air and it is shameful that the DC counsel is voting to making this service less accessible. Uber drivers are nice, professional, and there is a record of who picked me up and dropped me off. As a woman that often rides in taxis alone, this is a HUGE benefit of Uber (I should not even have to mention the fact that recently a taxi driver was taking women to undesirable areas of town and sexually assaulting them). I do not have to worry about carrying cash either - as the ride is automatically billed to my account.

Your allegiance should be to the residents of DC and not the taxi drivers (most of which do not even live in the District). I will not vote for any councilman, including you, that votes to make Uber's less expensive hybrid service unavailable to DC residents. You should be ashamed to even consider enacting such legislation.

Our cab system is broken. DC instead of fixing the problem has raised the rate of taxis. Uber is a much needed service in this city and you should vote to make Uber more accessible to the residents of DC not less.

Britney Edwards  


**From:** [Britney Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:57 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I first moved to Washington, D.C. in 2005. I love this city. I often boast of getting to live here to my friends elsewhere in the country. We have a lot going for us. Unfortunately, the taxi cab system is not one of them.

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Our cab system is broken. DC instead of fixing the problem has raised the rate of taxis. Uber is a much needed service in this city and you should vote to make Uber more accessible to the residents of DC not less.

Britney Edwards  


**From:** [Britney Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:19 PM

---

Mr. Brown,

I first moved to Washington, D.C. in 2005. I love this city. I often boast of getting to live here to my friends elsewhere in the country. We have a lot going for us. Unfortunately, the taxi cab system is not one of them.

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Our cab system is broken. DC instead of fixing the problem has raised the rate of taxis. Uber is a much needed service in this city and you should vote to make Uber more accessible to the residents of DC not less.

Britney Edwards

[REDACTED]

20009

**From:** [Scott Talan](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and DC Taxi Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:07:30 PM

---

Councilmember Brown

I trust you will vote against having min fare. Uber and other potential transportation options should be welcomed not hindered.

Scott Talan

Wash DC 20009

--

@Talan on Twitter  
Scott Talan on Linked In  
'Talanism' Channel on YouTube

**From:** [Baecher Gregory B.](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and taxi pricing  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:18:23 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

As your constituent on the Hill, I urge you to support Uber's quality service at a reasonable price.

It is not hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high since I believe that the City Council is in the hands of the taxi industry. But, please prove me wrong and earn my vote in the next election.

Regards,  
Gregory Baecher

**From:** [Amy Ciccone](#)  
**To:** [cicconeamy](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and taxis!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:00:25 AM

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Please don't give into the taxi lobby--please let healthy competition from Uber be allowed to charge whatever they like. Otherwise, DC cabs have a monopoly on this city, and it's not right. Strike down the minimum fare amendment!

Thank you,  
Amy and John Ciccone  
DC Ward 2 residents for the last 5 years

**From:** [William McKendree](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED] [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber and the Minimum Fare  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:57:48 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

As a resident of DC, I expect my government to everything to protect my liberties and encourage competition. Uber has created an ingenious service, and consistently delivers drivers that with automobiles I want to ride in. For years, DC's cabs have been filthy, old gas guzzlers. When I heard of the new Uber service for hybrid automobiles, I was shocked to hear that the DC Council would support an artificial price floor on this service. Especially in DC where countless pro-environment initiatives have been undertaken (plastic bag fee, energy star appliance rebates, hybrid automobile tax credit to name a few).

I hope that you will continue to show your support of the environment and enable competition in the district which will only benefit its residents.

Sincerely,  
William McKendree  
Resident, Ward 1

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Vicki Kennedy](#)  
To: [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
Subject: uber cab  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:37:54 PM

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Dear Mr. Catania,

I understand that the Council is voting on an amendment that would set a minimum price on Uber Cab that is far in excess of what the norm is in it's usual course of business. I urge you not to do that.

I have no interest in Uber other than as a satisfied customer, both here in DC and in Boston. I do not think Uber negatively impacts the DC cab business. Rather, for me, it enhances it. Because of the ease of getting an Uber car, I often forget about taking my own car and use Uber to get to a destination and take a DC cab back to my house. Without Uber, I would take my own car both ways. Honestly, calling a DC cab for a pick up is too much of a hassle and too unpredictable, especially on a rainy day. But by using Uber one way and DC Cab the other, I get the best of all worlds. If you raise the Uber rates, however, you end Uber cab, and for me, my added use of DC cabs.

In any event, I think the increase is unfair.

I urge you to vote against it and vote for the no minimum for uber amendment sponsored by Jack Evans.



Vicki Kennedy



From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Vicki Kennedy](#)  
To: [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
Subject: Uber Cab  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:58:08 PM

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Dear Michael,

I understand that the Council is voting on an amendment that would set a minimum price on Uber Cab that is far in excess of what the norm is in it's usual course of business. I urge you not to do that.

I have no interest in Uber other than as a satisfied customer, both here in DC and in Boston. I do not think Uber negatively impacts the DC cab business. Rather, for me, it enhances it. Because of the ease of getting an Uber car, I often forget about taking my own car and use Uber to get to a destination and take a DC cab back to my house. Without Uber, I would take my own car both ways. Honestly, calling a DC cab for a pick up is too much of a hassle and too unpredictable, especially on a rainy day. But by using Uber one way and DC Cab the other, I get the best of all worlds. If you raise the Uber rates, however, you end Uber cab, and for me, my added use of DC cabs.

In any event, I think the increase is unfair.

I urge you to vote against it.

Vicki Kennedy

**From:** [Marc Meisnere](#)  
**To:** [Reynolds, Wilson \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:12:23 PM

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Representative Graham,

Please allow Uber Cab to lower their rates! Competition will be a huge motivator for DC cabs to improve and modernize their service, which, as it stands now, is abysmal and arcane. An all hybrid fleet of taxis, provided by uber at competitive rates will surely improve the taxi environment in DC overall.

Sincerely,  
Marc Meisnere  
Ward 1 resident

**From:** [Allison Portnoy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:58 PM

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Please vote in favor of Uber Cab tomorrow.

**From:** [Timothy-Paul Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:41:48 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I love DC's transportation system. I've found the metro, taxis, and busses in DC to be some of the best I've experienced. Recently, I discovered a new way to get around the city: Uber Cab. Uber Cab allows their customers to request and pay for a cab anywhere in the city using their GPS enabled smart-phone. One of the best things about Uber Cab is that you can watch your cab en route to your location (so you know exactly how long you have to wait—usually 5-10 minutes). Uber Cab also charges your credit card automatically at the end of the trip, so there's no calculating a tip or fumbling for money once you arrive at your destination.

Unfortunately, I recently read that the DC City Council intends to prevent Uber from becoming a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high. The only reason I can think of for the city council to do this is to protect the conventional taxi industry. If that is the case, it is deeply upsetting. The only way to keep DC's transportation systems as one of the best in the world is to allow companies to innovate—as Uber Cab has done. Please vote to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber provides excellent services to DC residents and should be allowed to provide affordable fares.

If you feel I am mistaken and will be supporting the Minimum Fare language in the Uber Amendment, please send me a note with your reasons.

Sincerely,

Timothy-Paul Murphy

**From:** [Timothy-Paul Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:40:40 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I love DC's transportation system. I've found the metro, taxis, and busses in DC to be some of the best I've experienced. Recently, I discovered a new way to get around the city: Uber Cab. Uber Cab allows their customers to request and pay for a cab anywhere in the city using their GPS enabled smart-phone. One of the best things about Uber Cab is that you can watch your cab en route to your location (so you know exactly how long you have to wait—usually 5-10 minutes). Uber Cab also charges your credit card automatically at the end of the trip, so there's no calculating a tip or fumbling for money once you arrive at your destination.

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If you feel I am mistaken and will be supporting the Minimum Fare language in the Uber Amendment, please send me a note with your reasons.

Sincerely,

Timothy-Paul Murphy

**From:** [Timothy-Paul Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:18 PM

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Dear Councilman,

I love DC's transportation system. I've found the metro, taxis, and busses in DC to be some of the best I've experienced. Recently, I discovered a new way to get around the city: Uber Cab. Uber Cab allows their customers to request and pay for a cab anywhere in the city using their GPS enabled smart-phone. One of the best things about Uber Cab is that you can watch your cab en route to your location (so you know exactly how long you have to wait—usually 5-10 minutes). Uber Cab also charges your credit card automatically at the end of the trip, so there's no calculating a tip or fumbling for money once you arrive at your destination.

Unfortunately, I recently read that the DC City Council intends to prevent Uber from becoming a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high. The only reason I can think of for the city council to do this is to protect the conventional taxi industry. If that is the case, it is deeply upsetting. The only way to keep DC's transportation systems as one of the best in the world is to allow companies to innovate—as Uber Cab has done. Please vote to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber provides excellent services to DC residents and should be allowed to provide affordable fares.

If you feel I am mistaken and will be supporting the Minimum Fare language in the Uber Amendment, please send me a note with your reasons.

Sincerely,

Timothy-Paul Murphy

**From:** [patrick.riley](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32:05 PM

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Please do not pass this vote. Uber Cab is competing fairly in the market and is a great service to DC citizens.

**From:** [patrick.riley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:33 PM

---

Please do not pass this vote. Uber Cab is competing fairly in the market and is a great service to DC citizens.



**From:** [Cmanning](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Cab -- Strike Down The Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:10:06 AM

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If DC cabs weren't *terrible* (impossible to call, dirty, don't take credit cards), Uber cab wouldn't be needed and cab companies wouldn't be worried.

DC Cabs are an embarrassment to our city and below subpar compared to other cities. Is this the impression we want to leave on visitors?

Focus your energy on cleaning up DC Cabs rather than destroying the free market.

Best,

Chris Manning



Manning Sossamon

**Christopher C. S. Manning**

Manning Sossamon

1120 20th Street NW

Suite 700, North Building

Washington, DC 20036

Direct

[www.manning-sossamon.com](http://www.manning-sossamon.com)

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**From:** [Gareth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber cab proposal tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:38:50 PM

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Hi Tommy,

I am a constituent of yours (I am 25 and have lived in Ward 6 my whole life), and I would like to strongly urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I generally take cabs at least once a weekend and Uber Cabs every few weeks. While cab service is generally very good, there are often situations where Uber Cabs are a much better option. When you are not close to streets heavily trafficked by cabs or do not have any cash on you, cabs are just not a feasible option. While neither cabs nor Uber are perfect options, they both have their uses and it is very nice to have the option to take either. Frankly, the option to take either makes DC a much more liveable city.

I appreciate all you have done as my Councilman (I have voted for you every time I have been of age to vote in DC and plan on doing so again whenever your next election is), but this is something that tangibly affects me and I hope you vote to strike the minimum fare language.

Best,

Gareth

**From:** [Amy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber cab vote TOMORROW  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:54:24 PM

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Sir-

As a resident of ward 6 I'm asking that you refuse to approve or better yet strike the minimum fare language from the uber amendment. As a dc resident without a car, and unpredictable hours at work that don't always coincide with metro, Uber provides a reliable, clean, safe taxi service. Frankly, Uber has been a breath of fresh air in a market that up to now has been anti-consumer, unsafe and completely unreliable.

Please don't take away the only decent taxi option available for DC residents!

Amy Lorenzen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Ashley Stahl](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:26 PM

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Hello,

I was recently informed that the DC City Council was interested in prohibiting Uber car from lowering its prices. I'd like to say that Uber car has been crucial to my safety and well being as a DC resident. I cannot tell you how many times I was stranded somewhere in DC, without a cab in sight. I ended up calling the cab companies who either put me on hold or promised to send a cab that never came. Thanks to Uber car, I was able to find a safe mode of transportation when I was stuck in some of DC's most questionable neighborhoods late at night. I could never have afforded to pay any more than Uber charges, but was so pleased to find a dependable way to get around the city. Uber has become a dependable safety tool for women in DC. I have many friends who depend on it as a safe and affordable way to get around the city. On top of all of this, they are incredibly professional.

There have been many occasions in DC where cab drivers are rude and sometimes offensive. Moreover, I have found myself on hold with the cab companies, none of which even guarantee that they will offer a ride to me. I was mugged while waiting for a cab, which never came. The cab companies in DC are unprofessional, undependable and overall mediocre at best. Uber changed this for me.

Uber is the ONLY dependable service in DC that compares to a cab. It keeps women like me safe and it an asset to the city. Moreover, it doesn't break our bank account. Please consider allowing Uber to continue offering safe and affordable transport for women. This issue extends beyond business and is rather a safety issue for the city.

Thanks to Uber, **women can afford safety.**

Regards,

Ashley Stahl- A DC resident and advocate for this innovative company that has improved upon my life in so many ways.

**From:** [Rhonda Ozanian](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:11 PM

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Mr. Wells,

please vote to strike down minimum fare requirements in Uber Amendment tomorrow.

This car service is vital to DC residents who sometimes need the certainty of scheduling transportation. It costs far more than cabs already! Raising fees would cause this important business to go out of business. This service does NOT compete with cabs. It DOES bring in additional tax revenues into the city!!!! And is a huge added convenience to business and political travelers who want a different kind of service than a cab can provide. But remember Washington DC is made up of public servants including those on the Hill. Washington is making a better impression across the nation by keeping this important transportation service.

I am just a resident and have no interests in this short of getting good consumer services at a reasonable price and Uber car services fills that need. I take plenty of cabs and will always do so. Uber car adds to the existing transportation services. It does not compete. It just makes Washington a better city to visit!

Rhonda Ozanian

**From:** [Susan Davis](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:29 PM

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I hope you can provide some clarity on this issue. I just received this notice (<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>) from the Uber Car Service, and if accurate, I find it very troubling and hope you oppose any such effort.

I've lived in DC since 1997 and I love this city and consider it home. Uber has been one of the BEST services to hit DC in as long as I've lived here and I shudder at the thought of the Council siding with the utterly corrupt DC Taxi Commission. Have you ever tried to catch a cab at Union Station after midnight? It's downright criminal. Not to mention the utter lack of safety in the cars and many drivers. It's a third-rate operation in a first class city. Uber is a first-rate operation for a first-class city.

I just don't think we should be punishing good businesses, with good business models doing good things for a GREAT CITY.

Please do the right thing!

Cheers.

Susan Davis

[REDACTED]  
Washington DC 20008  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Susan Davis](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:47 PM

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Dear Mr. Wells--As the only competent member of the DC City Council, I hope you can provide some clarity on this issue. I just received this notice (<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>) from the Uber Car Service, and if accurate, I find it very troubling and hope you oppose any such effort. I live in Ward 3 and Mary Cheh is my Councilwoman, but she is almost entirely unresponsive to her constituents and you have the best reputation among your constituents. (Many of my friends live on the Hill and rave about you.)

Bottom line: I've lived in DC since 1997 and I love this city and consider it home. Uber has been one of the BEST services to hit DC in as long as I've lived here and I shudder at the thought of the Council siding with the utterly corrupt DC Taxi Commission. Have you ever tried to catch a cab at Union Station after midnight? It's downright criminal. Not to mention the utter lack of safety in the cars and many drivers. It's a third-rate operation in a first class city. Uber is a first-rate operation for a first-class city.

I just don't think we should be punishing good businesses, with good business models doing good things for a GREAT CITY.

Please do the right thing!

Cheers.

Susan Davis

[REDACTED]  
Washington DC 20008  
[REDACTED]

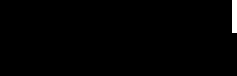
**From:** [Tim Durney](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:22:14 PM

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Good Afternoon Mr Wells,

I saw an article about the Councils proposed regulation regarding Uber car service. I grew up in Washington, DC (East Capitol Street SE) and have lived in Philadelphia and New York City and I have to say that the taxi service in DC falls well behind most other major cities on the east coast. I hope that you will consider allowing Uber and any other improvement to a failing taxi system to operate unimpeded. How long did we stay on the taxi Zone System before that was finally and scrapped to the cheers of locals and tourists alike? DC is a young and vibrant town and if this legislation passes it will only shine an even brighter light on the fact that our City Council is holding on to views and thoughts of an aging and dwindling legacy population. All of my best and thank you.

Thanks,  
Tim and Beth Durney

 20002



**From:** [kathleen.gough](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:49:12 PM

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To the Members of the DC City Council-

Please reconsider your position on Uber. It is great to have an alternative to regular DC taxi service, and although I don't mind paying more for this service, the new fees seem disproportionate.

This is a needed service in DC. Calling a DC taxi is a ridiculous exercise. For example, try calling Diamond and asking for a realistic ETA, you will be met with rudeness and the cab may or may not arrive. Uber's drivers are called per the phone app and turn up as predicted. DC taxis can range from pretty nice to old, smelly, and lacking a/c with drivers to match. Uber cars are universally nice and every driver I have encountered has been courteous and professional. DC cabs may or may not pick you up depending on the driver's attitude and the rider's race. My husband (who is black) often has a hard time catching a cab in DC. He loves the Uber app because it takes possible prejudice out of the equation. The driver has a service to provide, knows that the rider's credit card is on file, and everybody benefits.

We don't use Uber all of the time. Many times a plain old DC cab will do, but for some occasions, the nicer option really is worth it!

Please allow Uber to continue to provide a viable alternative to DC taxicabs.

Thank you,

Kathleen

**From:** [Ryan Cummins](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:12:23 PM

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I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to the taxi rules that would provide an unfair protection from competition to taxis in The District. Enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare is unfair manipulation of commerce that prevents competition and innovation to the detriment of the consumer.

I have had taxi drivers scam or attempt to scam me over 80 percent of the time I have taken a cab and at this point I pretty much refuse to use a taxi in DC unless I am given no other choice. I believe companies like "Uber" are the other choice I, and many others have been waiting for.

I appreciate your attention to this matter

Ryan Cummins  
Ward 1 Resident  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Stephen Ferry](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:03:51 PM

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I am writing to express my displeasure with the amendment to the taxicab bill that would prevent Uber from rolling out their new low cost take program in Washington.

I have lived here nearly 20 years, we have the absolute worst taxi cabs in the country. I've been to dirt poor Caribbean islands with better taxi service. Here comes an honest competitor and the council is trying to shut it down. We need a good competitor. Please do not vote for this amendment.

Respectfully,

Stephen A. Ferry



**From:** [Laura Collins](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:45 PM

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Mr Wells,

Today I am writing as a concerned resident of Ward 6 in Washington, D.C. I find it very troublesome the local government is attempting to pass regulations which increase the cost of an alternate means of transportation to taxi cabs. A customer should be able to choose which means of transport he/she wants to use without government intervention. Passing this will only personify the influence of the DC Cab Service on local politics.

Thank you,

--

Laura B Collins



**From:** [Eric Call](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:40:58 PM

---

Dear Members of the D.C. City Council,

I sure hope you will consider lowering or doing away with the minimum fair requirement facing Uber car service. Once DC cabs clean up their act and stop charging me phantom charges, I would be happy to patron them again. It will be fantastic when they allow me to pay with a credit card and update their cars to energy efficient (hybrid) and clean cars like every major city (and many small cities) across the U.S. and even globally.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very respectfully,

Eric Call

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kiersta Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:41 PM

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I've lived in DC for 6 years and I cannot tell you how many terrible experiences I've had with DC cabs. I've had cabs refuse to take me to Petworth from U St while I was already in their car. I've had cabs purposely drive out of the way to have a larger fare (with the zone system and since then). Routinely, the drivers do not have change for \$10s or \$20s and sometimes they have the wrong rate on the meter. When you point that out they say, "Oh you are smart... you must be a resident." Am I supposed to be flattered that they couldn't scam me?

I've had drivers say extremely uncomfortable things to me in a sexual nature. The men ask me all the time if I am married, where my husband is, if they can take me to dinner, and make comments about my body. When you are a single woman at midnight driving through Rock Creek Park it is hard to stand up for yourself in that situation. It is also impossible to see and write down their licence/check out the photo in complete darkness.

I also rode in a cab with a man who had crazy note cards all over his car that accused the CIA and FBI of stalking him. Let me tell you, I definitely felt safe during that ride.

Since New Year's I've been using Uber and I love it. I've used a cab 2 times since then and immediately regretted the decision because my experience with Uber has been much better. I can see who is coming, where they are, their liscence number, and their rating. If I have a bad experience I can rate them lower and if they go the wrong way or have no cars available I get credits to my account.

I cannot understand why the city of DC would want to take away this service, make them charge more, and/or make them unable to expand their offerings. Uber operates in many other cities and those cities also have a cab service that is still running. Perhaps the DC cab commission woudn't have so much to fear from Uber if they did simple things like vetting their drivers, allowing feedback, and accepting debit/credit card (which seriously even Louisville, KY accepts those!).

When you vote tomorrow I hope you remember this. The taxi service in DC is terrible, appalling, and for many of your constituents unsafe. The only way to make the service better is to offer other means of transportation and to force competition.

I thank you for the time.

Kiersta Barnes

**From:** [Kiersta Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:46 PM

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I've lived in DC for 6 years and I cannot tell you how many terrible experiences I've had with DC cabs. I've had cabs refuse to take me to Petworth from U St while I was already in their car. I've had cabs purposely drive out of the way to have a larger fare (with the zone system and since then). Routinely, the drivers do not have change for \$10s or \$20s and sometimes they have the wrong rate on the meter. When you point that out they say, "Oh you are smart... you must be a resident." Am I supposed to be flattered that they couldn't scam me?

I've had drivers say extremely uncomfortable things to me in a sexual nature. The men ask me all the time if I am married, where my husband is, if they can take me to dinner, and make comments about my body. When you are a single woman at midnight driving through Rock Creek Park it is hard to stand up for yourself in that situation. It is also impossible to see and write down their licence/check out the photo in complete darkness.

I also rode in a cab with a man who had crazy note cards all over his car that accused the CIA and FBI of stalking him. Let me tell you, I definitely felt safe during that ride.

Since New Year's I've been using Uber and I love it. I've used a cab 2 times since then and immediately regretted the decision because my experience with Uber has been much better. I can see who is coming, where they are, their liscence number, and their rating. If I have a bad experience I can rate them lower and if they go the wrong way or have no cars available I get credits to my account.

I cannot understand why the city of DC would want to take away this service, make them charge more, and/or make them unable to expand their offerings. Uber operates in many other cities and those cities also have a cab service that is still running. Perhaps the DC cab commission wouldn't have so much to fear from Uber if they did simple things like vetting their drivers, allowing feedback, and accepting debit/credit card (which seriously even Louisville, KY accepts those!).

When you vote tomorrow I hope you remember this. The taxi service in DC is terrible, appalling, and for many of your constituents unsafe. The only way to make the service better is to offer other means of transportation and to force competition.

I thank you for the time.

Kiersta Barnes

**From:** [Kiersta Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:24 PM

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I've lived in DC for 6 years and I cannot tell you how many terrible experiences I've had with DC cabs. I've had cabs refuse to take me to Petworth from U St while I was already in their car. I've had cabs purposely drive out of the way to have a larger fare (with the zone system and since then). Routinely, the drivers do not have change for \$10s or \$20s and sometimes they have the wrong rate on the meter. When you point that out they say, "Oh you are smart... you must be a resident." Am I supposed to be flattered that they couldn't scam me?

I've had drivers say extremely uncomfortable things to me in a sexual nature. The men ask me all the time if I am married, where my husband is, if they can take me to dinner, and make comments about my body. When you are a single woman at midnight driving through Rock Creek Park it is hard to stand up for yourself in that situation. It is also impossible to see and write down their licence/check out the photo in complete darkness.

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When you vote tomorrow I hope you remember this. The taxi service in DC is terrible, appalling, and for many of your constituents unsafe. The only way to make the service better is to offer other means of transportation and to force competition.

I thank you for the time.

Kiersta Barnes



**From:** [Ty Carson](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:46 PM

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Dear Council Members:

It has been reported that the Council intends to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. Uber provides much needed competition to the current transportation offerings in the District, especially traditional cab service. It helps provide safe clean, safe, reliable transportation, especially when cabs are unavailable or in short supply on nights and weekends. The presence of Uber in the city should be welcomed, as it likely will spur District cab operators be become more customer service oriented, and improve the condition of the current taxi fleet. I write to urge you to allow Uber to compete freely and without pricing constraints, as this will benefit all DC residents, not simply heavy users of Uber's current service offerings. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Carson

**From:** [Daniel Cruz](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:05:34 AM

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Dear Councilmember Brown,

I'm writing to you to ask that you and your colleagues on the DC City Council not prevent the discount car service Uber from lowering its rates. Uber is an excellent service that offers residents and tourists additional, reliable, and safe options for getting around the District.

I take a lot of cabs around the District. I've recently started using Uber. Uber offers healthy competition for the region's terrible cab companies.

Have you taken a cab in the District lately? Cab drivers are often rude and offer extremely poor customer service. Cabs charge additional fees for the use of their trunk, even when customers insist on not using the trunk and ask to place small luggage in the back seat. Cab drivers often argue with their customers and even curse at them. I've had many cab drivers here in the District with terrible attitude problems. Many cab drivers do not carry appropriate change, which I'm convinced is a common scam to get a larger tip from customers by keeping their change. Many cabs in the District do not accept credit cards, leaving them far behind cab companies in other major cities like Boston, Chicago, and New York. These cities saw cab usage increase when cabs began accepting credit cards. Uber accepts credit cards through a no hassle system.

Uber is a new service that actually cares about the customer. **The cab companies don't care about the customer and want to use the council to stop any competition.** Please do not prevent Uber from expanding in the District. Please do not prevent Uber from lowering its rates. You have nothing to gain by appeasing the cab companies. Many residents of the District will be watching your vote.

Sincerely,

Daniel Cruz

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20008

**From:** [Daniel Cruz](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:01:56 AM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

I'm writing to you to ask that you and your colleagues on the DC City Council not prevent the discount car service Uber from lowering its rates. Uber is an excellent service that offers residents and tourists additional, reliable, and safe options for getting around the District.

I take a lot of cabs around the District. I've recently started using Uber. Uber offers healthy competition for the region's terrible cab companies.

Have you taken a cab in the District lately? Cab drivers are often rude and offer extremely poor customer service. Cabs charge additional fees for the use of their trunk, even when customers insist on not using the trunk and ask to place small luggage in the back seat. Cab drivers often argue with their customers and even curse at them. I've had many cab drivers here in the District with terrible attitude problems. Many cab drivers do not carry appropriate change, which I'm convinced is a common scam to get a larger tip from customers by keeping their change. Many cabs in the District do not accept credit cards, leaving them far behind cab companies in other major cities like Boston, Chicago, and New York. These cities saw cab usage increase when cabs began accepting credit cards. Uber accepts credit cards through a no hassle system.

Uber is a new service that actually cares about the customer. **The cab companies don't care about the customer and want to use the council to stop any competition.** Please do not prevent Uber from expanding in the District. Please do not prevent Uber from lowering its rates. You have nothing to gain by appeasing the cab companies. Many residents of the District will be watching your vote.

Sincerely,

Daniel Cruz

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20008

**From:** [Adrienne Donato](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber car service amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:44:59 PM

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*I am writing to express my outrage at the City Council's attempts to curb/limit Uber in DC. How anyone can protect the DC taxis from more competition when taxis provide less reliable and more uncomfortable service and are never held accountable? If they don't like the service Uber provides--maybe it's time for DC taxicabs to step up their game. Uber provides a much needed service in DC and it is obvious by these attempts to shut them down that the DC Taxicab Commission holds far too much sway over DC politicians. Our city has the worst cab service of any major city and to protect them from competition and allow them to charge their already high rates for bad service doesn't make sense.*

*The response from the taxi commission SHOULD be to learn from this, listen to what customers want and provide better service rather than try to shut the competition down through political channels. Instead of cleaning up the taxis, ensuring they are all comfortable (a/c comes to mind) and that the drivers are courteous and friendly, let alone revamping taxi service so that I can call from my house on a random night and get a taxi there sooner than 45 mins to an hour, the result is to pressure council members to take votes most of their constituents are against. I can't depend on a taxi to take me to the airport to make a flight without calling an hour before I would really need to leave knowing that I likely will have to wait a ridiculous amount of time. Should I not admit that when traveling to DCA, I often call Red Top Taxi because they allow me to schedule my pick up in advance? Is DC Taxi Commission next going to limit a Virginia taxi from allowing it pick up airport passengers in DC?*

*What other business in DC would we do this to? If someone has an idea and people are willing to pay for it, find a way to work with it rather than shut it down--or use it to make other similar services better--that's what competition is about. It isn't Uber's fault that people here prefer their vehicles to taxicabs and that we are willing to pay them more money for the same service--not 5x more which you know is nothing more than an attempt to shut Uber down.*

*Why has Uber thrived in other cities that also have taxicabs as part of their transportation culture? Because their taxis can handle the competition. If DC taxis provided anywhere near the level of service of Uber, I'd make both a part of my DC transportation needs.*

*Are taxi's next going to find a way to shut down Capital Bikeshare since that sometimes replaces a taxi for me as a means of getting around?*

Adrienne Donato  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Matt Batista](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service in DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:24:47 PM

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Councilmember Brown,

I'm approaching 14 years of living and working in the district and have recently purchased a home in Ward 4. My wife and I are expecting our first child in August and we plan on raising him here.

I'd like to voice my support for the Uber car service in DC. In my years here I've had the opportunity to ride in many of DC's taxis, with some good experiences as well as not so good. I understand that taxis serve a purpose in DC and that many people rely on them for transport when other forms of public transportation aren't available. But there are many instances where the services of DC taxis are severely lacking. I have rarely if ever gotten a taxi to arrive at a residence through a phone call to the company's dispatcher. When my wife or myself have had early morning travel plans that necessitate a taxi ride we've tried to schedule cab to arrive in the morning. On the rare occasion they've shown up at all they've always been extremely late. When making important arrangements we can't take that chance and must find other ways to get where we need to go. Also, late at night I've never been able to get a cab to arrive in a timely manner to my brother's house in Brookland. Like Ward 4, Brookland is very residential and late at night there are few cabs present on the streets. When you call for a cab they may not arrive until hours later if at all. I've simply stopped trying to call them.

On the other hand the first time my wife used the Uber service a clean, black town car arrived at our residence a few minutes before the scheduled pickup. The driver was courteous and responsive (he texted to let us know he'd arrived.) We've used Uber on other occasions and they always arrive on time or early. They understand the importance of service and that when someone is relying on you to be there and you let them down, they'll go looking elsewhere in the future. DC cabs have let too many people down and when they went looking elsewhere they found Uber.

I support Uber and ask that you remove the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment that would hamper their ability to offer new and expanded services in DC. For too long DC taxis have had a monopoly on transportation in this city and some competition would benefit all residents of the city who rely on this type of transport.

Sincerely,

Matt Batista

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20012

**From:** [Susan Davis](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car Service in DC--SAVE IT!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:45 PM

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I hope you can provide some clarity on this issue. I just received this notice (<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>) from the Uber Car Service, and if accurate, I find it very troubling and hope you oppose any such effort.

I've lived in DC since 1997 and I love this city and consider it home. Uber has been one of the BEST services to hit DC in as long as I've lived here and I shudder at the thought of the Council siding with the utterly corrupt DC Taxi Commission. Have you ever tried to catch a cab at Union Station after midnight? It's downright criminal. Not to mention the utter lack of safety in the cars and many drivers. It's a third-rate operation in a first class city. Uber is a first-rate operation for a first-class city.

I just don't think we should be punishing good businesses, with good business models doing good things for a GREAT CITY.

Please do the right thing!

Cheers.

Susan Davis

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20008

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ashley Stahl](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Car/ Taxis in DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:06 PM

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Hello,

I was recently informed that the DC City Council was interested in prohibiting Uber car from lowering its prices. I'd like to say that Uber car has been crucial to my safety and well being as a DC resident. I cannot tell you how many times I was stranded somewhere in DC, without a cab in sight. I ended up calling the cab companies who either put me on hold or promised to send a cab that never came. Thanks to Uber car, I was able to find a safe mode of transportation when I was stuck in some of DC's most questionable neighborhoods late at night. I could never have afforded to pay any more than Uber charges, but was so pleased to find a dependable way to get around the city. Uber has become a dependable safety tool for women in DC. I have many friends who depend on it as a safe and affordable way to get around the city. On top of all of this, they are incredibly professional.

There have been many occasions in DC where cab drivers are rude and sometimes offensive. Moreover, I have found myself on hold with the cab companies, none of which even guarantee that they will offer a ride to me. I was mugged while waiting for a cab, which never came. The cab companies in DC are unprofessional, undependable and overall mediocre at best. Uber changed this for me.

Uber is the ONLY dependable service in DC that compares to a cab. It keeps women like me safe and it an asset to the city. Moreover, it doesn't break our bank account. Please consider allowing Uber to continue offering safe and affordable transport for women. This issue extends beyond business and is rather a safety issue for the city.

Thanks to Uber, **women can afford safety.**

Regards,

Ashley Stahl- A DC resident and advocate for this innovative company that has improved upon my life in so many ways.

**From:** [Jon Camfield](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber cars  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:30:25 PM

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Tommy,

As a DC resident for approaching a decade, and a Hill resident for the past 4 years, I'm upset at DC's continued meddling with the Uber car service. I'm excited by DC's long-overdue work to modernize our taxi fleet, but part of this must be allowing competition into the city. Having been kicked out of cabs who refused to drive me to Takoma DC, or who wouldn't accept a credit card for payment, or waiting forever or having to pay more and dispatch a cab to the hill, I welcome any reasonable competition into the city's transit. Having access to Uber as a service is an amazing thing, and if it disrupts the traditional taxi service a bit, I'm OK with that. Being able to call an Uber car to the hill for a guaranteed-AC, calm ride to the DCA is a genuine blessing.

I understand that the council is voting to restrict Uber's ability to offer a lower minimum fare if passengers opt to use their hybrid cars. I would think that any and all incentives to reduce emissions and drive further adoption of fuel-efficient cars would be a positive step, particularly when it comes voluntarily from the private industry. Uber's service will forever be costlier than the city's fleet of taxis due to their business model, and I don't believe they should be further hampered from providing a level of service that, frankly, our city's taxi seem resistant to do, by and large.

--

Jon Camfield

<http://www.JonCamfield.com>

PGP Key: <http://joncamfield.com/pgp.key.txt>



**From:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Gluckman, Judah \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Uber comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:13:48 PM

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Please see below for the comment on Uber.

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**From:** Gluckman, Judah (Council)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:08 PM  
**To:** Bowser, Muriel (COUNCIL)  
**Cc:** Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber comments

Today the Council voted on legislation that would overhaul the District's regulation of the taxi industry. It mandates many improvements for the rider, such as standardized appearance, credit card readers, and handicap accessibility, among others.

In passing this legislation, the Council also considered a relatively new and popular sedan service known as Uber. In casting my vote in favor of an amendment that would allow Uber to legally offer service in the District, I did what I felt was best for the people of Ward 4. I received an outpouring of phone calls and emails from constituents who rely on Uber's service. It provides them with clean, courteous, and premium service at a reasonable price. Most importantly, Uber serves parts of Ward 4 that many taxi companies do not reliably reach.

The legislation is in effect until December 31, 2012. During the intervening months, the Council will hold a hearing to consider how best to treat Uber and similar services in the long-run. Above all, our goal will be to guarantee that District residents have the ability to choose from a variety of high-quality transportation options, all of which are safe, reliable, and cost-effective.

As Ward 4 residents, please continue to share your thoughts with me on this subject and others. I value your opinion and take pride in knowing the issues we are working on at the Council are important to you.

**From:** [Gluckman, Judah \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:08:17 PM

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[Here's a revised statement on Uber.](#) Let me know if you need anything else.

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As Ward 4 residents, please continue to share your thoughts with me on this subject and others. I value your opinion and take pride in knowing the issues we are working on at the Council are important to you.

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**From:** Gluckman, Judah (Council)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:56 PM  
**To:** Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber comments

*Any suggestions?*

Today the Council voted on legislation that would overhaul the District's regulation of the taxi industry. It mandates many improvements for the rider—such as standardized appearance, credit card readers, and handicap accessibility, among others—and does so without imposing unreasonable costs on individual taxi drivers and taxi companies.

In considering this legislation, the Council spent considerable time discussing the regulation of a relatively new and popular sedan service known as Uber. In casting my vote in favor of an amendment that would allow Uber to continue offering service in the District, I did what I felt was best for the people of Ward 4. I received an outpouring of phone calls and emails from constituents who rely on Uber's service. It provides them with clean, reliable, and courteous service at a reasonable price. Most importantly, Uber serves parts of Ward 4 that many taxi

companies do not reliably reach. For those reasons, I did not want to unnecessarily hinder Uber's business.

But, I also do not wish to create an unfair playing field in which taxis are subject to considerably more regulation than sedan and limo operators. That's why the amendment that legalizes Uber and similar services is temporary and will allow the Council to consider these issues in a more in-depth manner in the fall. Following a hearing, the Council will hopefully pass separate legislation that will provide the minimum regulation necessary to ensure safety, reliability and fairness across taxi, sedan and limo services.

As Ward 4 residents, please continue to share your thoughts with me on this subject and others. I value your opinion and take pride in knowing the issues we are working on at the Council are important to you.

**Judah Gluckman**

*Legislative Counsel*

Office of Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)

Committee on Government Operations

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 113

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (202) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Gluckman, Judah \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:55:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Bowser on Uber.docx](#)

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*Any suggestions?*

Today the Council voted on legislation that would overhaul the District's regulation of the taxi industry. It mandates many improvements for the rider—such as standardized appearance, credit card readers, and handicap accessibility, among others—and does so without imposing unreasonable costs on individual taxi drivers and taxi companies.

In considering this legislation, the Council spent considerable time discussing the regulation of a relatively new and popular sedan service known as Uber. In casting my vote in favor of an amendment that would allow Uber to continue offering service in the District, I did what I felt was best for the people of Ward 4. I received an outpouring of phone calls and emails from constituents who rely on Uber's service. It provides them with clean, reliable, and courteous service at a reasonable price. Most importantly, Uber serves parts of Ward 4 that many taxi companies do not reliably reach. For those reasons, I did not want to unnecessarily hinder Uber's business.

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As Ward 4 residents, please continue to share your thoughts with me on this subject and others. I value your opinion and take pride in knowing the issues we are working on at the Council are important to you.

**Judah Gluckman**

*Legislative Counsel*

Office of Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)  
Committee on Government Operations  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 113  
Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (202) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Maura Gillespie](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber DC  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:27:23 AM

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We support the Wells/Evans Amendment that strikes down the minimum fare language!

Thank you!  
- Maura

**From:** [Maura Gillespie](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber DC  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:44:50 AM

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Dear Mr. Orange,

I would like to voice my opinion before the vote today to let you know how important the Uber service has been to my living in D.C. As a Georgetown resident, we are a mile from the nearest metro stop. My commute takes 45 minutes, sometimes longer. With the Uber service, I have a reliable and trustworthy car service, something that Red Cab or other D.C. taxis do not provide.

With the recent problems with young girls getting into cabs at night

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/31/dc-taxicab-arrests-attacks\\_n\\_1393737.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/31/dc-taxicab-arrests-attacks_n_1393737.html)), I feel much safer taking the Uber service. Safety is my number one concern, and reliability is my second.

Please do not take away such a valued car service for an area that struggles to find convenient transportation as it is. Good for Uber that they want to make this lovely service a little more affordable; this economy is struggling and yet Uber is trying to provide us with reliable, clean, and quality transportation at a more reasonable price. Don't punish the people of D.C.

Thank you,  
Maura Gillespie

**Vote NO to Minimum Fare language in Uber Amendment!!**

**From:** [Maura Gillespie](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber DC  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:43:51 AM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

I would like to voice my opinion before the vote today to let you know how important the Uber service has been to my living in D.C. As a Georgetown resident, we are a mile from the nearest metro stop. My commute takes 45 minutes, sometimes longer. With the Uber service, I have a reliable and trustworthy car service, something that Red Cab or other D.C. taxis do not provide.

With the recent problems with young girls getting into cabs at night

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/31/dc-taxicab-arrests-attacks\\_n\\_1393737.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/31/dc-taxicab-arrests-attacks_n_1393737.html)), I feel much safer taking the Uber service. Safety is my number one concern, and reliability is my second.

Please do not take away such a valued car service for an area that struggles to find convenient transportation as it is. Good for Uber that they want to make this lovely service a little more affordable; this economy is struggling and yet Uber is trying to provide us with reliable, clean, and quality transportation at a more reasonable price. Don't punish the people of D.C.

Thank you,  
Maura Gillespie

**From:** [VN Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:01 PM

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Mr. Catania, et al,

I just received a missive from a service that I use often suggesting that they are being artificially priced out of competing with DC cab drivers because of a law that the city council is voting on tomorrow. Is this the case? I have been ripped off more than once by DC cab drivers, especially coming from Union Station late at night, and I have found Uber's service to be exemplary and vastly preferable to the cabs. I know why cabs would want to keep them out, but why would the DC council hurt a company offering a valuable service?

I urge you to vote to allow Uber's new service.

Thanks,

V

Vilasa Campbell

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005



**From:** [Gregory Frank](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:24:26 PM

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Mr. Wells,

I am a resident of Ward 6 and very concerned about tomorrow's vote on the Uber car service. I have used and loved Uber since their service began in San Francisco, and I waited impatiently for them to arrive in DC after I moved here early last year. They are a fantastic company with a fantastic service, and I am saddened to learn that they have not brought their lower cost hybrid service to the district because of the impending proposition.

The taxi industry in this city certainly deserves protection, but legally pricing out competition is not the way it should be done. Perhaps tighter regulation of the taxis themselves could improve their image and efficiency and bring them up to a standard more closely resembling that of other cities.

Please vote against artificially raising prices for Uber. It will be a great loss for the district if they are legislated out of usefulness.

Sincerely,

Gregory Frank

**From:** [Terry Carter](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber DC vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:38:04 PM

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Good afternoon,

I just wanted to drop you all another note to ask that you pass the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the fare minimum. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Best,  
Terry Carter

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:02 PM, Terry Carter <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
To whom it may concern,

As a new resident of the District who recently moved here from across the river in Arlington County I would like to encourage you all not to pass the amendment banning Uber from lowering their fares.

Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but it seems the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. You all are essentially making sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC. For obvious reasons, I am seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace.

With the obvious problems Metro is facing many of us in the city and surrounding areas often rely on cabs for transportation. Over the years cabs in Washington, DC have become less and less reliable and less and less expensive. I live off of Massachusetts avenue near 15th street - the cost for me to take a cab from my apartment to U street is about \$15, not including tip. This is because, especially if you're traveling with 2-3 people. the price to get in the cab is often times more expensive than the ride itself. It is unfair for me to pay \$7+ just to enter a vehicle. Not only that, but the vehicles are often dirty, rickety old cars with drivers who are unfamiliar with where they are going and often rely on passengers for directions. Also, I have had several instances where cab drivers refuse to allow me in the vehicle because they "are not going in that direction" or they often shout out the window at passengers trying to pick out the one going to the most convenient location for them. When I have contacted the DC Taxi Commission about these issues I receive no response.

I suggest you all either get a serious grip on DC taxis or reconsider your vote to ban free market competition in the District.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Terry Carter

**From:** [Terry Carter](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber DC vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:42 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a new resident of the District who recently moved here from across the river in Arlington County I would like to encourage you all not to pass the amendment banning Uber from lowering their fares.

Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but it seems the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. You all are essentially making sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC. For obvious reasons, I am seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace.

With the obvious problems Metro is facing many of us in the city and surrounding areas often rely on cabs for transportation. Over the years cabs in Washington, DC have become less and less reliable and less and less expensive. I live off of Massachusetts avenue near 15th street - the cost for me to take a cab from my apartment to U street is about \$15, not including tip. This is because, especially if you're traveling with 2-3 people. the price to get in the cab is often times more expensive than the ride itself. It is unfair for me to pay \$7+ just to enter a vehicle. Not only that, but the vehicles are often dirty, rickety old cars with drivers who are unfamiliar with where they are going and often rely on passengers for directions. Also, I have had several instances where cab drivers refuse to allow me in the vehicle because they "are not going in that direction" or they often shout out the window at passengers trying to pick out the one going to the most convenient location for them. When I have contacted the DC Taxi Commission about these issues I receive no response.

I suggest you all either get a serious grip on DC taxis or reconsider your vote to ban free market competition in the District.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Terry Carter

**From:** [David Knight](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Drop Rate  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:32 PM

---

Please do not support the Amendment, imposing a five times the minimum drop rate for sedan service ( $\$3 \times 5 = \$15$ ).

DC residents benefit from better, cheaper transportation and taxi options (in addition to Car2Go, ZipCar, bike lanes, more buses, etc).

Thank you.

David Knight  
Ward 2

**From:** [David Knight](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Drop Rate  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:48 PM

---

Please do not support the Amendment, imposing a five times the minimum drop rate for sedan service ( $\$3 \times 5 = \$15$ ).

DC residents benefit from better, cheaper transportation and taxi options (in addition to Car2Go, ZipCar, bike lanes, more buses, etc).

Thank you.

David Knight  
Ward 2

**From:** [Amber](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Fare minimums  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:44:12 PM

---

Dear CM Wells,

Please remove the minimum fare language from the upcoming vote on Uber's rates.  
Uber should be allowed to set their own rates.

Sincerely,

Amber Reed  
Noma resident

**From:** [John Basile](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:45:40 PM

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Chairman Mendelson, Chairperson Cheh, Councilmember Brown & Councilmember Evans,

I am a Ward 2 resident. I am also a former hotel management veteran, working over 22 years in the hospitality industry. I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment tomorrow.

Residents and tourists want options. I have been using Uber since they arrived in the DC area. I cannot tell you what a joy it is riding in an Uber vehicle. Riders should feel safe, comfortable and happy when using transportation services and Uber does just that. I have dealt with cab drivers and the taxi cab commission over the last 2 decades, I'm sure each of you have experienced the sub-par standards that the public has to deal with; from nasty drivers, discrimination of passengers, dirty cabs, illegal cabs, illegally charged fares and add-ons, I have even been asked to get out of a cab (while en-route) because I lived just south of the "zone" cut off, back in the days before meters. I have NEVER had even one negative issue from an Uber ride. Passengers have no rights and no pleasure with the current system. We deserve options. Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment tomorrow.

Thank you for your help.

John Basile  




**From:** [Scott Stryker](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber in Dc  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:02 PM

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Hello,

Please vote to allow Uber to lower their rates. It is the right thing to do.

I know you will do the right thing and allow them to lower their rates for all to benefit from.

Thanks,  
Scott

**From:** [Nagore Goitiandia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Insanity  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:23:13 AM

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I use Uber all the time. It is a revolution in taxi/car service. You don't have to call and hope, you can actually see where the driver is and exactly how long they will take to get there prior to accepting the ride. You can also view the drivers ratings and reviews and accept, or not accept, a ride from them based on their performance. The drivers can also do the same for customers and if riders abuse the drivers, then they don't have to come and get them. This is why drivers will come to Ward 4, or anywhere else for that matter - because they know exactly who they are picking up. The cars are nice and clean and all the drivers are friendly and courteous and payment is hassle free and your tip is included. While you do pay a slight premium, it is worth it in my opinion. Anyone who thinks otherwise is welcome to call a cab and hope they come, or hail one off the street. At the same time, this more economical, all-hybrid fleet will expand their market and make Uber service even more affordable for all families in DC.

This is innovation and how the market place is supposed to work. While taxis in DC and other metro areas have held their markets and consumers hostage through regulation and medallions, rather than innovation and improved quality of service, Uber has found a way to reduce overhead, improve efficiency, and increase the quality of their product to compete and drive the market to a better place for consumers.

It seems completely insane to punish a company with innovative business practices and provides the type of service customers want, need and deserve. Do we not want to cultivate a society that progresses into the future?

I beg of the entire council to vote against keeping the district in the dark ages.

--

Nagore Goitiandia  


**From:** [Leslie Maria](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber is a default; fix DC cabs instead  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:52:28 AM

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Please do not limit uber's accessibility or its attempt at competitive pricing, which, obviously is still not truly competitive. DC cabs refuse to take credit cards, refuse to drive passengers into Arlington (or virginia generally) and can be unavailable a lot of the time. It is also virtually impossible to call a DC cab - v. grabbing one on the street. I default to Red Top of Arlington when I am going to Arlington, but Uber is also available when Red Top is not. I prefer to pay cab rates, but when I can't get a cab, it's helpful to have Uber around.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Regards,  
Leslie Maria



**From:** [Nisha Kapadia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER is AMAZING!!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:49:54 PM

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Please allow Uber to provide us a low cost fleet. It is unfair for DC taxi's to have a monopoly on the service!! Lets allow them to compete and drive DC taxi's to provide better customer service to DC residents! As a resident of DC for 10 years I vote the following:

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase “public vehicle-for-hire ride” and insert the phrase “taxicab ride” in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify that the 50-cent taxicab surcharge applies to taxicabs.

7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase “The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to” and insert the phrase “On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to” in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read as follows:

“(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

“(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

“(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

“(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

“(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

“(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

“(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a

receipt that lists the origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and “(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section.”.

Thanks!

Nisha Kapadia

1239 Vermont Ave NW Apt 706

Washington D.C. 20005.

**From:** [Christopher M. Campagna](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER is S-UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:24:22 PM

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Uber is the best thing to happen to transportation in DC in a generation. Taxi's are total embarrassment, UBER will be the best thing that ever happened to sorry DC taxi cab companies. The local cab companies will wither improve their service, the condition of the cabs (currently atrocious), and hey what a novel idea the drivers will actually have to know where things are, and bonus HOW TO GET THERE or they will be out of business. DC cabs are pathetic, and an embarrassment to the city.

Uber is providing a first class alternative, don't screw it up. They are using technology, and innovation to provide DC citizens and visitors with a superior transportation alternative.

STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE AMMENDMANT!

Christopher M. Campagna, MICP

**President**

**Braddock Commercial Real Estate Services**

 - Mobile

braddockcommercial - Skype

 - email

**From:** [Jackie Kobia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Uber is under fire by DC taxi commission and City Council.... Pls. send DC Govt a note of support.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:34:40 AM

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Sub: STRIKE 8C – Remove sedan minimums.

Hello DC Council members,

I am a citizen of DC, a car owner, a metro rider, a taxi rider, and an Uber user... and I use each of those forms of transportation depending upon my need and convenience at the time.

That being said, I want to state my extreme displeasure with the new legislation that you are proposing that would severely penalize Uber users.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read as follows:

"(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

I understand that you are trying to overhaul the DC Taxi system... but give me a break! Uber has come into the city and fulfilled a much-needed niche for customers that are fed up with rude taxi drivers in sub-par vehicles, who often times won't even take you to your desired destination.

The DC Taxi Commission does not deserve to have a monopoly on all car transport in the city. Citizens deserve the right to choose their vehicle of choice, and if it happens to be a sedan service, that service should not be mandated to charge 5x the drop rate for taxicabs.

PLEASE STRIKE 8C.

\* \* \*





**From:** [Heather West](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber keeps me safe  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:06:31 PM

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Mr. Evans and Colleagues -

I am a constituent in Ward 2. I am concerned by the news that Uber may be forced out of the city by ill-considered legislation. Uber fills an important niche in DC transportation - there is little to no chance that it would actually hurt the ability of DC taxis to make a living. And more importantly, to me, Uber makes me feel safe when I venture out to new neighborhoods.

I am an active user of both taxis and Ubers - each has a unique purpose. When I'm in highly-trafficked locations during normal times of day, it's easy and efficient to flag down a taxi. However, I've had very little luck calling for DC taxi pickup at night, especially in Wards that are not downtown. For this reason, I've chosen to email all of you - because my ability to frequent the businesses in your Wards will often hinge on whether I feel like I will be able to get home safely, and Uber has increased my confidence in neighborhoods I do not know well. It's worth it to me to pay a premium for the service that Uber provides when I do not know my surroundings. The drivers have always been courteous and

Without Uber, I would have to wander dark streets, potentially alone, until I find a passing empty taxi. This is a safety risk for me. One of my favorite Uber features is that the mobile app shows me the license plate of the car that's picking me up, as well as a picture of the driver - making me significantly more comfortable getting into a strange car (and as safe as DC cabs may be, there are certainly times that I'm significantly put off by the driver or concerned about stories of predatory drivers - Uber leaves an accountability trail).

The Taxi Commission seems to be afraid of a little competition. Both taxis and Ubers have their place in the ecosystem - let them complement each other. Please don't crack down on Uber just because the Taxi commission is worried - I have seen no good arguments for why we shouldn't have both in DC. If you have some, that are based on real data - I would love to hear them.

Heather West

**From:** [Amy McDonald](#)  
**To:** [Amy McDonald](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Law  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:27:21 AM

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Hello,

My name is Amy McDonald and I am recent grad of the George Washington University. I realize you are voting on the Uber law today, and just wanted to share my two cents. I have lived in DC for almost five years now, and have come to the realization that cabs don't often frequent many parts of the city. Take NE for example, even calling a cab company will not get you a cab in NE. Many times, they'll tell you they are coming and never do. I started using Uber because I went to Catholic, transferred to GW and at the time was dating a Catholic student. In certain parts of the city its hard to find cabs, or as a young female (like myself) its unsettling to stand outside in the dark waiting for a cab. So Uber, at its current rates, provides an alternative in situations like that.

Most people I know don't use Uber daily and would prefer a taxi, but Uber also takes credit cards, which many cabs here do not. Perhaps a better alternative would be to add credit card machines to the local taxis instead of raising the rates on Uber.

Thank you for your time and service to the District. I really hope you'll consider that Uber is a helpful company in addition to the local taxis.

Sincerely,

Amy McDonald

--

Amy McDonald  
George Washington University 2012  
B.A. International Affairs



**From:** [ML](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:51:09 AM

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RE: UBER Legislation

Mr. Wells-

As a resident of the District of Columbia residing at 1401 N Street, NW, Apt 411 I find it reprehensible that you and the rest of the council are trying to legislate higher prices for me and other users of the UBER service within the District of Columbia by forcing them to maintain a minimum rate. While I am a fierce democrat I still believe in the tenants of a free market and with this legislation you and your fellow members have chosen to give the Taxi drivers, which most DC residents - including and especially myself - find to be disrespectful and dishonest a continued upperhand. I should be allowed to vote with my dollar and if I can't vote with my dollar I will surely vote at the polls and encourage others to do so as well.

Please vote AGAINST the UBER law and allow me to get the most for my money. Do not legislate what I must spend to get good and decent transportation in our great city.

Thank you  
-Michael Leaver

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [ML](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:46:16 AM

---

RE: UBER Legislation

Mr. Brown-

As a resident of the District of Columbia residing at 1401 N Street, NW, Apt 411 I find it reprehensible that you and the rest of the council are trying to legislate higher prices for me and other users of the UBER service within the District of Columbia by forcing them to maintain a minimum rate. While I am a fierce democrat I still believe in the tenants of a free market and with this legislation you and your fellow members have chosen to give the Taxi drivers, which most DC residents - including and especially myself - find to be disrespectful and dishonest a continued upperhand. I should be allowed to vote with my dollar and if I can't vote with my dollar I will surely vote at the polls and encourage others to do so as well.

Please vote AGAINST the UBER law and allow me to get the most for my money. Do not legislate what I must spend to get good and decent transportation in our great city.

Thank you  
-Michael Leaver

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [ML](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:45:37 AM

---

RE: UBER Legislation

David-

As a resident of the District of Columbia residing at 1401 N Street, NW, Apt 411 I find it reprehensible that you and the rest of the council are trying to legislate higher prices for me and other users of the UBER service within the District of Columbia by forcing them to maintain a minimum rate. While I am a fierce democrat I still believe in the tenants of a free market and with this legislation you and your fellow members have chosen to give the Taxi drivers, which most DC residents - including and especially myself - find to be disrespectful and dishonest a continued upperhand. I should be allowed to vote with my dollar and if I can't vote with my dollar I will surely vote at the polls and encourage others to do so as well.

As a fellow gay man who uses the taxi system in this city -- in fact -- you were almost hit at Florida and U Street because a cab let you out unsafely about a year ago I would hope that you would realize it is high time we send the cab's in this city a message that they DO NOT have a monopoly.

Please vote AGAINST the UBER law and allow me to get the most for my money. Do not legislate what I must spend to get good and decent transportation in our great city.

Thank you  
-Michael Leaver

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Mark Radlinski](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:48:38 AM

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Council Member Wells,

I'm writing to urge you to vote against the DC Council amendment setting an arbitrary price floor on UBER services. My wife and I use UBER due to the extremely poor cab service in DC and we do not want the City Council essentially dictating what services will be offered to us with regards to our transportation choices. UBER offers us a safe and reliable service that we enjoy and does not hurt the already atrocious cab service. Our cab system is hurt by terrible drivers, poor car conditions, and lack of oversight - not by UBER.

Do not let the government intrude into a personal decision to use a transportation service.

Thank you for your time

Best,  
Mark and Tate Radlinski



**From:** [Jim Haynes](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber locost taxi service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:34:41 PM

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I urge you not to enact any legislation that would set a price floor for Uber's car service. Uber's service is outstanding and has proved a success in San Francisco, New York, Washington and other cities. Any attempt to set a minimum fare price for this or any service would not benefit the citizens or visitors to the city of Washington. I urge you not to be influenced by special interests, the taxi cab operators, and vote against this crazy proposal.

Jim Haynes

[The Aviation Group](#)



602 Lasswell Ct., SW  
Leesburg, VA 20175-5023



**From:** [Joanna Berry](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER LOWER PRICES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:25:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Please let Uber go forward with this service!

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**.

Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#)
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)

- Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)
  - Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
  - Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
  - Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
  - Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)
  - Marion Barry, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
- 
- David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
  - Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).

U B E R

Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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Joanna Berry  
Senior Buying Specialist  
Import Buying Team  
Total Wine & More

[REDACTED] x245  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Yuriko Horvath](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber min rate  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:57:40 AM

---

Please don't force a min price for Uber. This is a valuable car service that supplements the unreliable taxi services especially for home pickup around where I live in Capitol Hill (not as traveled by taxies late night).

--yuri

--

/\* \*

\*[about Santa Claus]

\* John "The Biscuit" Cage: A fat man, trying

\* to squeeze through a narrow chimney, and

\* I taunt him with Oreos and whole milk.

\* \*/

**From:** [Aniello Alioto](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Min. Fares: PLEASE GIVE US THE CHOICE TO CHOOSE OUR TRANSPORTATION  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:14 PM

---

Dear Councilmember,

As a DC resident, I implore you to STRIKE DOWN the Minimum Fare Amendment from the Uber Amendment.

It is crucial to our physical safety that Uber remain a viable financial option, not to mention the ideal of competitive capitalism. Cabs are already much more expensive than they used to be. PLEASE give us, the public, choice in our transportation.

Sincerely,  
Aniello Alioto  
20010

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Gino Sferra](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Minimum Fare  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:49:40 PM

---

Dear Councilmember,

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

Sincerely,

Gino

--

Gino Sferra  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Wagner, Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber minimum fare  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:48:55 PM

---

Hello Councilman Wells--

I am writing to ask you to strike down the uber cab minimum fare rate. Uber is a safe, reliable, high-quality alternative to the standard taxi in Washington, DC. Several times over the last few months I have had to reach out to Uber cab as the standard taxi I called for never showed up (more than one taxi company.)

DC needs an alternative to the standard cabs in DC. In my opinion, they've gotten away with too much for too long.

Respectively,  
Lindsey



**Lindsey Wagner-Oveson**

DLA Piper LLP (US)  
500 Eighth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

T  
F

[www.dlapiper.com](http://www.dlapiper.com)

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**From:** [Bill Burns](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Minimum Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:52:50 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am a resident in Ward 5 and recently learned of language being voted on tomorrow to enact a price floor to Uber's service, preventing Uber from more directly competing with the existing taxi industry with a new service offering they've begun rolling out in other cities. I am writing to you to express my desire that you do not support this minimum fare amendment.

DC cabs are increasingly becoming the most frustrating part about living in DC, which says a lot considering how Metro's deteriorated in the last 10 years. DC taxis are regularly unreliable, take circuitous routes (if they know where they're going at all), require cash despite not carrying change, and are typically just a poor experience. I'm lucky if I'm able to find a cab, beat out others who may be nearby, and get the driver to agree to my destination. Don't get me started on the fees they continue to add, even though they should have all been scrapped recently. Drivers are regularly unpleasant and the entire experience is substandard.

Filing complaints to the Taxi Cab Commission is an arduous task to which I've never received even an acknowledgement.

Any attempt to improve the level of service in DC is met with stiff, loud opposition.

Contrast this to Uber, whose customers generally praise the service for its cleanliness, promptness, and ease of payment (definitely not price, but how you know exactly what the fare is and don't have to negotiate, carry cash, or calculate tips and fees). The nice thing about having options is that should customers decide Uber's apps or rates are unreasonable are always free to go back to the city taxis.

With the taxi industry is threatening to strike for losing their \$1 fuel surcharge, among other things, I cannot see how drafting legislation specifying for Uber minimum fares helps anyone but cab drivers. I'm not aware of any reason why Uber cars should be subject to government-forced higher fares and the government deciding in which market segment will Uber compete so as to not disrupt existing providers.

The general public has for too long been forced to accept poor service because there is no other option. Please allow Uber to compete with the taxis. While the drivers will not like it, this can only benefit the regular DC citizens that rely on a similar service to navigate the city at all hours of the day. Taxis can easily win back customers from Uber -- they're all over, easily identified, and familiar. But the DC government should not be in the business of protecting favored industries at the expense of its citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. While I have not emailed your office before, my understanding is that you have always solicited feedback from your constituents.

Regards,  
Bill Burns

**From:** [Tom Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Minimum Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:58:59 AM

---

Councilman,

I am writing to express my displeasure with the news that the DC Council is preparing language in legislation that will impose an unfair minimum on the uber service in order to protect a dysfunctional taxi cab system.

I was thrilled when uber came to DC as my, and many others, frustration with the DC taxi cabs was reaching an all time high.

My issues (and others) with the taxis in DC are not isolated issues. While there are nice, hard working drivers in this city, they are often over shadowed by the bad experiences. Some issues have included:

1. Taxi cabs never showing up when ordered thru a dispatcher or taking 2+ hours to show up (happens every weekend)
2. Drivers using the #3 code, as opposed to #1, and thus artificially driving up the cost of a ride by using the emergency fare code in the hopes the passenger doesn't notice (has happened numerous times to me).
3. Having rude, inconsiderate, or even dangerous drivers.
4. Having drivers illegally lock their doors in order to find out where you are going before they pick you up because they don't want to drive to certain parts of the city (happens on a nightly basis in Adams Morgan, DuPont, and Chinatown).
5. A shortage of cabs during busy times or nights is a huge issue as well.

Having a professional service that is reliable, considerate, and that can cause otherwise terrible taxis to step up their game in a more competitive environment is good for all residents of the city. Über will still be slightly more expensive than traditional taxis and people who don't want to pay will still be able to use taxis, but those of us who want the option should not be denied it.

Lastly, the DC Council isn't exactly in the best position, given the recent run of ethical issues, not to mention the long term reputation of DC government officials, to be engaging in what many would consider 'rate rigging' or 'competition limiting' based not on the best interest of citizens, but rather bowing to a politically active and influential taxi industry.

If that were to be made an issue, it certainly wouldn't help repair the lost public trust.

I hope you vote to strike down that language and promote this healthy competition.

Tom  
Ward 6 resident.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Scott Aaronson](#)  
**Subject:** Uber MINIMUM FARE Language  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:15:36 PM

---

To the DC City Council:

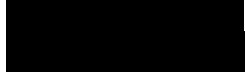
There is no reasonable, rational public policy explanation for stifling competition and valuing incumbency over innovation. Period. I'm asking you to vote down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

I am a resident of Washington, DC for more than 10 years. I live on Capitol Hill and work downtown. I use taxis regularly. I also occasionally use Uber as a reliable alternative in certain circumstances. It infuriates me that my (only) elected representatives would put the interests of a notoriously inept and occasionally corrupt quasi-monopoly ahead of the needs of tax paying citizens.

Washington DC has made great strides in the recent years and is on the precipice of being a real world class city again thanks to the innovation and investment of companies just like Uber. Please don't dissuade future investment or limit transportation options in defense of the status quo.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Aaronson



20002

**From:** [Alex Hoekstra](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Minimum Fare Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:49 PM

---

It's important you vote to strike down the Minimum Fare Language. I'm a voter in your Ward.

**From:** [Megan Cundari](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber minimum fare legislation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:58:28 PM

---

July 9, 2012

Dear Councilman Catania:

I am writing you regarding legislation that is pending before the DC City Council with regard to the minimum fare that can be charged by a sedan service. I am a fan of the service provided by Uber, and while I enjoy the sedan service, I would welcome their efforts to offer clients a lower priced option through the use of hybrid vehicles. I think it is in the best interest of Washington, DC, residents to have access to reliable, clean, and well-priced car transportation options.


I do not own a car and therefore need as many travel options available as possible. I am perfectly willing to take public transportation and regular taxi cabs; but I also like having access to Uber. There are instances when I am willing to pay a bit more to receive the better service provided in a well maintained vehicle that allows me the convenience of charging the fare to my credit card. I use taxi cabs regularly for both work and personal transportation, and I am often chagrined by the quality of both the service provided by the drivers (so often, they spend the entire ride on their phones) and the condition of the cars (dirty, falling apart). In addition, many cabs are still operating on a cash-only basis. DC taxi drivers need the competition – both from the Uber sedan service, as well as from a lower priced Uber option.

During tomorrow's consideration of the amendment related to Uber car service, I would ask that you strike down the minimum fare language contained in the legislative language.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Megan Cundari

  
Washington, DC 20036

**From:** [Rob Low](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Minimum Price Floor  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:58:25 PM

---

Dear Council Members,

Throttling the competition from UBER seems an appalling action to Linda and me. They have finally provided a transportation service which can actually be relied upon to immediately respond and to show up as promised. Many of the DC taxi services won't even answer their phone at times, and are frequently gruff, surly, and late.

Technology changes everything eventually. Let the market work.

Sincerely,

Rob and Linda Low

*The* **LINDA LOW** *Team*

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**From:** [Joshua Rolando](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber please read  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:55:59 PM

---

Hi there

I have heard about the amendment of the taxi modernization bill to stop the lowering of Uber fares. I am absolutely appalled and ashamed to work in a city that does consider the wallets of their residents and people who work there. Uber is not only affordable, take credit cards, and friendly unlike the city taxis. My husband and I live in Alexandria and we are in DC every weekend enjoying restaurants and supporting local establishments with his rugby team. We rely on uber to get us back to Mount Vernon area safely without ruining our pocketbooks. I cannot even tell you how many times I have outwardly been denied a ride from a dc cab because I live in Alexandria (which is illegal but they don't care!). My safety has been jeopardized by cabs in DC who once I've been in and told them where I was going have told

Me to get out. It is beyond insulting and I have been overjoyed by the courtesy and friendliness of every uber driver and the service I receive. And let's talk about the environment- hybrids!!!! They have hybrids that will clean up the air of YOUR city and we are bumping up those prices? I'm quite confused by that. Please reconsider what you are voting on tomorrow.

Best  
Maegan Dominguez

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joshua Rolando](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber- please read :(  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:53:50 PM

---

Hi there

I have heard about the amendment of the taxi modernization bill to stop the lowering of Uber fares. I am absolutely appalled and ashamed to work in a city that does consider the wallets of their residents and people who work there. Uber is not only affordable, take credit cards, and friendly unlike the city taxis. My husband and I live in Alexandria and we are in DC every weekend enjoying restaurants and supporting local establishments with his rugby team. We rely on uber to get us back to Mount Vernon area safely without ruining our pocketbooks. I cannot even tell you how many times I have outwardly been denied a ride from a dc cab because I live in Alexandria (which is illegal but they don't care!). My safety has been jeopardized by cabs in DC who once I've been in and told them where I was going have told

Me to get out. It is beyond insulting and I have been overjoyed by the courtesy and friendliness of every uber driver and the service I receive. And let's talk about the environment- hybrids!!!! They have hybrids that will clean up the air of YOUR city and we are bumping up those prices? I'm quite confused by that. Please reconsider what you are voting on tomorrow.

Best  
Maegan Dominguez

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joan DeLuca](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber price block  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:29:55 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

As a resident of D.C., a taxpayer, a homeowner, a regular cab customer and a sometime Uber customer, I am appalled that the council would move to keep transportation costs artificially high in D.C. by mandating the price of private cars from Uber. This kind of mandate goes against the free market system, and is exactly the kind of thing that ties the hands of independent business owners and will keep our economy in toilet. It is also unconstitutional. Consumers should have a right to vote with their wallets at any time they see fit. Enforcing that every consumer pay the recently outlandishly raised taxi fares by effectively outlawing any form of competition is a sign of corruption in the council. I myself will gladly participate in cab boycotts and any other relevant political or legal action, should this go through. Please stop this motion immediately.

Regards,

Joan DeLuca  
Registered Voter

  
Washington, D.C.

**From:** [S.T](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber price floor  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:58:59 PM

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Dear Council members,

I am writing to you as an active citizen of Ward 2. I'm deeply concerned by the Council's disregard of providing citizens of the District with a lower cost, competitive option to the various taxi services of the District. As a user and advocate of the Uber system, I can vouch for its safety, reliability, consistency, and quality standards, which the rest of the DC taxi providers should aspire to achieve.

I'm sure you have heard both sides of the story. Taxi services in the city have done a great deal of advocacy within the District council, and have thusly ensured its sustainability. However, many of us believe that the DC taxi services have abused their protected positions within the system, and have avoided fair and open competition by viable alternatives due to a restrictive set of barriers; those that have been overcome by companies such as Uber. As a citizen, I believe that fair and open competition drives costs down, and creates options that WE are able to choose, rather than have the council choose for us--one of the truest inherent virtues of a free society.

Please consider Uber when you cast your vote on Taxi Modernization Amendment. More importantly, please consider the wishes of your citizenry.

Kind regards,  
Stephen True  
Ward 2



**From:** [Towner French](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Price Floor Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:51:52 AM

---

Councilman Wells,

As a long-time DC resident and a Ward 6 voter, I am writing to request that you vote against any effort to legislate price fixing that would hinder the ability of car services, such as Uber, to operate in the District.

My experiences with District cabs over the course of my life have led me to turn to the Uber service on an increasing basis. The inability to call a cab to Capitol Hill without a specified time of arrival, the inability to flag a cab that will return me to Capitol Hill on weekend evenings, and the completely inconsistent driver skill level have pushed me to the service, even at slightly higher rates.

Furthermore, I frequently experience cab drivers artificially increasing the rate system, first by adding phantom zones under the old system, and now by taking longer routes and adding bags. It is an unbelievable relief to simply not have to pay a gas surcharge that will never go away as a result of the strong cab unions.

In closing, as a consumer, I am searching for consistency in service. I am fortunate to be able to pay a little more for assurity. My use of Uber does not mean that others cannot still use cabs. Please do not remove this transportation convenience and allow for a transportation monopoly to continue in Washington, DC.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience at [REDACTED] or this email address. Thank you in advance for your vote against increased protectionist transportation policy.

Towner French

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Allison Holden](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Price Floor Vote Today  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:08:35 AM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I am a recent arrival to the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood. I am writing to express dismay that the council is even considering a measure which would set a price floor for the private car service Uber. It is a well-known fact that the taxi cab service in Washington D.C. is abominable, and uber provides a reasonable alternative for many voters in this city. I urge you not to support this amendment which restricts the free market and is solely in the interest of the taxi lobby. I will be watching your vote carefully today.

Thank you so much,

--

Allison Holden  
J.D. Candidate, May 2013  
The George Washington University Law School  


**From:** [Nuri John Atay](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Pricing  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:32 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I just found out about the legislation that is being considered, regarding the pricing for Uber Cabs in DC. Keeping a public transportation option in the city artificially high seems to be a foolish idea. I sincerely hope that the city council will consider the matter seriously before taking a vote.

Regards,  
Nuri Atay

**From:** [Nuri John Atay](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Pricing  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:40 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I just found out about the legislation that is being considered, regarding the pricing for Uber Cabs in DC. Keeping a public transportation option in the city artificially high seems to be a foolish idea. I sincerely hope that the city council will consider the matter seriously before taking a vote.

Regards,  
Nuri Atay

**From:** [Jennifer Caulk](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Pricing and Your Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:19:44 PM

---

Dear Ms. Cheh,

Thank you for your flexibility in reconsidering the amendment that would mandate a price floor for Uber's car services. I appreciate that you've listened to the people you represent, which unfortunately is a sentiment I've rarely felt in the 10 years I've lived in DC.

Uber is a service that I've quickly come to value. The tech savvy business model and the clean, safe, respectable cars/drivers are impressive.

I have always felt unsafe in taxis here, and the "I-don't-give-a-hoot-because-you-have-no-choice" attitude of the taxi commission has caused me to miss flights, be trapped in cars with angry drivers, be refused rides, and ripped off. I'm very thankful Uber is on the scene and is introducing competition to the market. They are setting a high standard, and you should be proud to have them take to our streets.

This issue with Uber highlights all the reasons I'm disenfranchised and often disgusted with the DC City Council and the city government. I will continue to follow this issue closely, and hope you and the rest of the council act in the interests of those you represent.

Regards,  
Jennifer Caulk

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Jennifer Caulk** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:06 PM  
**Subject:** Uber Pricing and Your Vote  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Jim Graham,

I understand the DC city council is keeping Uber's prices artificially fixed in order to ensure taxis don't have to work for their business. Considering the embarrassing, dangerous, and outdated state that DC taxis are in, I think this alternative service, Uber, is a welcome addition to the city streets. A governing body should not be controlling competition, period. The fact is, alternative methods of transportation are important to this city, and discouraging businesses from holding themselves accountable for fair, safe, and dare I say, successful practices is a shame. A vote to stifle competition reeks.

I know, the Taxi Commission is cleaning up and modernizing - but it's taken years to get them to where they are, which, like I mentioned earlier, remains embarrassing. In fact, I was just in a cab that smelled of marijuana, with the driver wheezing and coughing the entire way home. I turned to my husband and said, "we should

have just called Uber."

Please consider allowing for Uber to set their own pricing structure, and give the mess of a taxi cab commission more incentive to modernize and compete fairly.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Caulk, DC resident since 2002, car-less since 2006, homeowner since 2008.

**From:** [Ben Kind](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber provides a safe and reliable option that dc cabs don't  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:36 PM

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Phil,

I know you're bombarded with emails and I don't have a ton of time to get all of my thoughts down -- but you cannot get rid of Uber in DC.

Uber provides a safe and reliable option that we cannot get from DC cabs. Many times that my friends and I go out in the NE and SE sectors of DC, it can be very easy to get caught in the "wrong place at the wrong time". My safety has felt violated on numerous accounts, and I come to you as a 6'0, fit, 25 year old man. I can't even imagine how some younger and female people feel when they go out and are stuck without a ride at night.

Also, there are instances where I have tried to get into a DC registered cab late at night, and the driver has left me on the streets of the NE quadrant of DC because "it wasn't enough money for him". He then came back around and said, "how about \$25", which is definitely illegal.

Without Uber, there is no guarantee of a safe ride home at 3a on a Saturday night. Unless DC cabs adapt an application where you can see geolocation of drivers and request pickups through it, shutting down Uber only increases the amount of petty crime that's going to happen at late hours, as well as drunk driving because people need to ensure that they get a ride home.

I hope you guys understand the implications of shutting down this business. It has helped make DC a safer and more attractive place.

Sincerely,  
Ben

--

Ben Kind | LivingSocial Adventures | Regional Manager |  | [www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com)

**From:** [Otey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Rate Voting  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:31:05 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I trust this correspondence finds you well. My name is Thomas Otey Smith, and I live in the Landmark Loft building located at 215 I Street NE in Ward 6. To begin, thank you for your service to our city and ward. My primary purpose for writing is to demonstrate my support of Uber, a service that has literally changed my life and the way I move around our great city. As a law-abiding, tax-paying DC constituent/resident, Uber has allowed me to: (i) avoid waiting at the corner of H and 3rd (right outside my door) as countless taxis bypass me - most likely due to my ethnicity; (ii) enjoy a very comfortable, safe ride to my destination; and (iii) enthusiastically pay a fair price for great service. Uber is so great that I have informed many of my friends to use it as they too have grown tired of the lack of respect demonstrated so often by the District's taxi drivers.

I ask that you reject any law making it illegal for Uber to lower its prices. I hope that my voice will be heard as you consider your voting position tomorrow.

All the best,  
Thomas Otey Smith



**From:** [Martha Stracener Dantzic](#)  
**To:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:40:17 PM

---

Thanks Daniel for the update and sounds like you guys are in support of Uber car?

I forgot to mention that we don't have a car and it's a bonus for our liveable walkable hood to not have a car -and Uber makes it that much easier.

And yes tried zip car but it's a pain, costs more than a taxi and I have to stay sober if I get in one.

Did you download the Quicksilver Summer Sampler? Do it!!! I'd love to hear what your favorites are!

[https://www.facebook.com/QuicksilverProductions/app\\_128953167177144](https://www.facebook.com/QuicksilverProductions/app_128953167177144)

And share it with your friends!

We should have a date soon to talk about Kingman Island BGF. Headed to Grey Fox next weekend - any chance you are going?

Martha Stracener Dantzic  
Quicksilver Productions  
213 11th St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003

 cell  


[www.quicksilverproductions.net](http://www.quicksilverproductions.net)

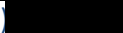
### **Quicksilver's Cavalcade of Stars**

On Jul 10, 2012, at 3:29 PM, Conner, Daniel (COUNCIL) wrote:

Martha, thanks for the note – Tommy is working with Catania, Evans and M. Brown to keep them operational until a hearing can be held to figure this out.

Daniel Conner, Deputy Director  
Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells  
Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 117  
Washington DC 20004

 (direct)

(202 ) (main)

[www.TommyWells.org](http://www.TommyWells.org)

 [Click here to follow Tommy on Twitter](#)

---

**From:** Martha Stracener Dantzic [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:14 PM  
**To:** Wells, Thomas (COUNCIL)  
**Cc:** Conner, Daniel (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber rates

Hey Daniel and Tommy -

I've never written you guys to date, but I just want to give my two cents on the Uber car. It's been a real lifesaver, especially in this heat. I'm a big user of Uber car because it's impossible to call a taxi cab to come to our house if we are staying in the District. We can easily call Red Top to get to VA. We have a private driver who takes us to BWI. But to take a cab to go anywhere in DC, we have to hoof it to the metro stop and hope we can flag one down.

We heart UBER big time.

Please do what you can to keep them alive and well in DC.

Many thanks -

Martha

Martha Stracener Dantzic  
Quicksilver Productions  
213 11th St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003

[REDACTED] cell [REDACTED]

[www.quicksilverproductions.net](http://www.quicksilverproductions.net)

**[Quicksilver's Cavalcade of Stars](#)**

**From:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** ["Martha Stracener Dantzic"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:29:24 PM

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Martha, thanks for the note – Tommy is working with Catania, Evans and M. Brown to keep them operational until a hearing can be held to figure this out.

Daniel Conner, Deputy Director  
Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells  
Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 117  
Washington DC 20004  
[REDACTED] (direct)  
(202) [REDACTED] (main)  
[www.TommyWells.org](http://www.TommyWells.org)



[Click here to follow Tommy on Twitter](#)

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**From:** Martha Stracener Dantzic [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:14 PM  
**To:** Wells, Thomas (COUNCIL)  
**Cc:** Conner, Daniel (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber rates

Hey Daniel and Tommy -

I've never written you guys to date, but I just want to give my two cents on the Uber car. It's been a real lifesaver, especially in this heat. I'm a big user of Uber car because it's impossible to call a taxi cab to come to our house if we are staying in the District. We can easily call Red Top to get to VA. We have a private driver who takes us to BWI. But to take a cab to go anywhere in DC, we have to hoof it to the metro stop and hope we can flag one down.

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[REDACTED]

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**Quicksilver's Cavalcade of Stars**

**From:** [Cliff Wynne](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:34:08 PM

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Hi,

I live on Capitol Hill and find the Uber service very reliable compared to the taxi services available in the District. They also take credit cards and show up on time. I do not understand why the City Council would vote to protect the mediocre dirty unsafe cab service in the District. Is this a political thing again

E. C. Wynne

**From:** [Aurora Caskey](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:14:04 AM

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Dear City Council Member:

Tomorrow is a chance to show you stand for creative innovation by standing with Uber and not for taxi interests who, at a minimum, do not want to compete with and match the exemplary service that Uber provides, and at a maximum are just plain greedy.

I use both taxis and Ubers depending on the situation - they each have their place - and I can't support an industry monopoly just because taxi interests are behind the curve and a step behind Uber. If they want, they can sign up to work with Taximagic and have many of the same features Uber provides. In addition, Uber provides a quality service that is often lacking with DC taxis that are often poorly maintained cabs whose drivers are talking on their cell phones (usually not even hands-free per DC law) and often not knowing where to go. Healthy competition is beneficial to the free-market place and restraints should not be put in place that eliminates that dynamic.

PLEASE take a stand against greed and for a helpful, innovative service that is Uber and vote against the Uber amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Aurora Caskey  
**Public Information Specialist**

U.S. House of Representatives | Office of the Clerk | House Document Room  
Office: [REDACTED] | Direct: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Martha Stracener Dantzic](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:14:21 PM

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Hey Daniel and Tommy -

I've never written you guys to date, but I just want to give my two cents on the Uber car. It's been a real lifesaver, especially in this heat. I'm a big user of Uber car because it's impossible to call a taxi cab to come to our house if we are staying in the District. We can easily call Red Top to get to VA. We have a private driver who takes us to BWI. But to take a cab to go anywhere in DC, we have to hoof it to the metro stop and hope we can flag one down.

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Please do what you can to keep them alive and well in DC.

Many thanks -

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 cell 

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[Quicksilver's Cavalcade of Stars](#)

**From:** [David Gerson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber serves our neighborhood when cabs don't. Please don't vote to force them to raise prices or exit the market.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:26:03 AM

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**From:** [David Gerson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber serves our neighborhood when cabs don't. Please don't vote to force them to raise prices or exit the market.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:22:31 AM

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**From:** [Alex Srisuwan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Service  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:52:56 AM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing to you today because of what I have heard about the proposed "Uber Amendment" concerning the fares and regulations of sedan services. I

wholeheartedly disagree with this proposal and strongly urge you to discard it.

Creating an artificially high price floor is ridiculous and unnecessary. If a company can and chooses to offer a premium service at a comparable price to DC taxis, then why should that option be eliminated? Why create an unnecessarily high floor for this premium service?

I have used the Uber service and I have used DC cabs. Every time I've been in an Uber car, the driver was polite, respectful, and responsible. He drove safely and got me to my destination. When I've been in DC cabs, drivers are constantly on their cell phones, rude and short when discussing fares, drive recklessly, and at times drop me off blocks away for poor reasons (didn't want to go around a block to go down a one-way street, didn't want to drive through traffic, etc.). I and many others love the Uber service and I think it provides a clearly superior alternative to DC's taxi service. I wholly disagree with this proposal and hope that you take the time to consider it.

Thank you,  
Alex Srisuwan

20010

**From:** [peter\\_protopappas](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:36 PM

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To whom it concerns,

I am a happy UBER customer and do not wish for the district council to amend language in the regulations to specifically inhibit the market for these vehicles. The service is decidedly different than taxi cabs and therefore should not be compared and regulated the same. I support UBER's request to strike down the following language.

Thank you

## Part B. — Uber Amendments

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase “public vehicle-for-hire ride” and insert the phrase “taxicab ride” in its place.

### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify that the 50-cent taxicab surcharge applies to taxicabs.

7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase “The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to” and insert the phrase “On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to” in its place.

## Explanation and Rationale

- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read as follows:

“(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

“(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

“(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

“(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

“(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

“(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

“(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a receipt that lists the origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and  
“(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section.”.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify how sedan services operate.
- Sedans would be required to charge a minimum fare of 5 times the drop rate for taxicabs.
- Sedans would be required to charge time and distance rates that are greater as those for taxicabs.
- These requirements would ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service.
- This section would also clarify that businesses that connect passengers to sedans are exempt from regulation so long as they provide an estimated fare, disclose rates, provide a receipt, and use sedans licensed by the Commission to operate in the District.

**From:** [Courtney W. Howland](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Service is Great -  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:08:20 PM

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Dear Council members,

Uber service in the district is the best thing that has happened to DC in ages.

For years we have had to suffer a taxi service that has to be the worst service in the Western World. DC Taxi drivers are rude, unhelpful and drive broken down cars dangerously. They do not know the meaning of the words "safety" or "courtesy." I have taken a taxi to a Virginia address--only to have it breakdown on the highway and wait hours to be rescued. I have gotten in countless number of DC taxis that do not have working seat belts. I have gotten in countless DC Taxis where rudeness has been the norm. In this heat, I have had to get into DC taxis that REFUSE to turn on their air conditioning. I have gotten into countless DC taxis where the driver will not turn down loud pounding music in the back seat and in reply to my request has been rude and threatening. How did all these dreadful DC taxi drivers ever get a license??? I can count on one hand the ones that I would not fire if they worked in my company.

I have a disability that it makes it difficult to open a taxi door. Countless DC taxi drivers have refused to help me--some have driven away instead. DC taxi service must be the absolute worst there is. And now you want to give them a competitive advantage by not allowing Uber or UberX? You must be joking!!! You are supposed to be serving the citizens of DC, acting in our interest, and you want to PROTECT DC taxis?


Uber is a godsend to this city. I am now able to get around the city easily and at reasonable cost. Drivers are kind, courteous, and their cars are well-kept, safe, and seat belts always work. They open a door for me with a smile--no complaint. There is air conditioning, and no loud music blaring in the back seat. There is no sense of hostility to the customer--unlike the usual DC taxi driver.

PLEASE encourage Uber in every way. They provide something that DC seems to have forgotten in its taxis: SERVICE. Uber makes DC livable and like other major cities --without it we are back to a primitive taxi system (not service).

Do not pass the Uber amendment.

Sincere yours,

Courtney W. Howland

  
Washington, DC 20037-2208  
USA

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Paul McGoldrick](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Service in Ward Six:  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:26:53 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I am a resident of Hill East a part of the city in which traditional cab companies provide notoriously poor service. I can not reliably hail a cab within 1/2 mile of my home and thus limited to the limited number of cab companies that provide dispatch service. Phone calls to Yellow cab on a Friday evening are guaranteed to result in a lengthy hold time and no promise of a timely pickup. In fact there is no promise of a pickup at all...

UBER service provides me with a transparent alternative to the current taxi system. Why do I use the word transparent;

I know exactly when I will get picked up  
I know who will pick me up  
I know what the quality of the vehicle in which I will be picked up is  
I know I will be able to use a credit card  
I know the driver has been vetted and has a solid knowledge of the cities geography and traffic patterns

I know NONE of this when I call a dispatched traditional cab... I can guess I will eventually picked up by a car of some sort. The car may have air conditioning and seatbelts or it may not... The driver may speak english well or he may not. Rarely will he take a credit card and he always has a motivation to raise the fare by driving me on a route that may not be efficient.

UBER provides a vastly superior product and traditional can companies know they can not compete without either changing their current business model or seeking a regulatory change. They've chosen the latter and I believe this is nothing more than an entrenched politically connected organization conducting public rent seeking.

I urge you to vote against this measure

--

V/r Paul McGoldrick





**From:** [Diani Diaz](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER- STRIKE DOWN MINIMUM FARE  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:06:10 AM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

About 4 months ago a friend of mine were out in DC for dinner and drinks. We were out late enough to have missed the final metro so we opted to take a taxi home. A few minutes into our cab ride we realize that our taxi does not accept credit cards. After a night out, we had no cash left so we informed our cab driver that we needed to stop at an ATM in order to pay the fare. For some reason unknown to us, the cab driver interpreted this as we were not going to pay the fare. He yelled at us, called us prostitutes, and locked us in the taxi while he sped down the streets of the city to Chinatown where he was going to "turn us into the police." After a few minutes of explaining the ordeal we just went through with the police officer, the cab driver got his fare (as we had intended to pay) and drove away. My friend and I were shaken up by this event and vowed to never take another cab in the city again.

Luckily, shortly after is when we discovered Uber. They are professional, reliable, and safe. I know that I can go out in the city and be able to enjoy a night out with my friends without having to worry about my ride home. Because I live in Silver Spring, it is **always** difficult to find a cab to take me home. Many cabs refuse to drive out to Maryland because they will not get a return fare. That is absurd! Uber however, will gladly take me anywhere I need to go and they are so friendly about it.

As a single working professional woman living in the DC metro area, I ask that you please allow Uber to continue to operate as it has been and I ask that you strike down the minimum fare requirement. This is a great city to live in but the public transportation definitely needs work. Uber is a reliable, high quality, and safe alternative to the taxi. It's unfair that legislation feels that we need to be rich in order to get a safe ride home.

Regards,  
Diani Diaz  
An EXTREMELY satisfied Uber customer

**From:** [Daryl Judy](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber support  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:29:28 PM

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I can't imagine that city Council would act against a business to bring lower fares to our citizens. Costs in this city are out of control and acting against one business that we have begun to rely on is unimaginable. We finally have a service that is clean, professional, timely, dependable and quite frankly an enjoyable experience. Please do not act against this fine business model.

Do not act unfairly against Uber. The citizens of DC deserve and demand low cost Uber service.

Daryl Judy



Daryl Judy

Associate Broker

Washington Fine Properties

Mobile: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (888) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: <http://www.kimberlyanddaryl.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KimberlyandDaryl>

WFP Web: <http://www.wfp.com>

Extraordinary properties are our business.

Superior service is our passion.

**From:** [Daryl Judy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber support  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:28:37 PM

---

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**From:** [Daryl Judy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber support  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:28:08 PM

---

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**From:** [Daryl Judy](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber support  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:27:25 PM

---

I can't imagine that city Council would act against a business to bring lower fares to our citizens. Costs in this city are out of control and acting against one business that we have begun to rely on is unimaginable. We finally have a service that is clean, professional, timely, dependable and quite frankly an enjoyable experience. Please do not act against this fine business model.

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Associate Broker

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WFP Web: <http://www.wfp.com>

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Superior service is our passion.

**From:** [Nathanael Yellis](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Tax?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:08 PM

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Mr. Wells,

Thanks for representing our part of the city. I've lived here for two years and have been impressed by your hard work and the various things you've pulled into the light.

I think that you are probably aware of this "uber tax" deal, but I use the service sometimes and they emailed me about the city council trying to hamper their efforts to charge less for part of their hybrid service. Taxis should compete with Uber and Metro and everyone else for my business, not use the city council to preserve their profits.

I hope you'll oppose the 5x rate rule and continue to support the kinds of innovation that make DC cool. Thanks again for serving as our councilman,

Nathanael

PS: I live near Union Station, if you're ever at our ANC (across from Union Pub) or someplace nearby I'd like to meet you.

**From:** [Meghan Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber taxi / car service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:18 PM

---

DC Council Members-

Uber is a game changer on the Hill. Getting a taxi to come to your house is near impossible much less getting them to answer the phone when you call. I don't understand why the DC City council is against competition? Won't Uber make DC cabs more accountable and efficient since there is finally competition out there? Our cabs are the nastiest, dirtiest and most unprofessional I have ever ridden in. It's like getting into a cab in a 3rd world country when you catch one in DC. These drivers talk on the phone the whole time and pay no attention to the road and NEVER have air conditioning. I filed a complaint with the taxi cab commission about 4 years ago. My mother and I had just caught a cab at Union Station and the driver was taking us to my home and I pointed out that there was a better way to drive and he turned around and screamed at me and cussed me out. We got out of the cab and took our luggage. I filed the report and never heard back. I'm sure this lunatic is still driving around threatening to harm people and the commission has done nothing about it. Another great DC cab story was when I was riding in a cab near Chinatown and all of the sudden the cab driver stops the car in the middle of the street (he of course was talking on his phone as well), opens the hood of his car and takes a sauce pan off the engine block, gets back in the car and starts to eat his whatever stinky mess was in the sauce pan while driving and continuing to talk on the phone. I hopped out at the next light b/c the smell was so disgusting among other things. You all seem to think this type of behavior is ok and professional b/c you do nothing about it. My standards must just be higher than yours. As a single woman who takes cabs at night I feel safe in an Uber as opposed to a DC cab which is scary no matter what the situation is. I can't believe those cabs pass inspection half the time!! When I had a problem with Uber on the other hand, not only did I get a quick apology I got a refund on my ride. Why does DC insist on being a city that is all about the race to the bottom? I think this little trick the council is trying to pull is all about cronyism and machine politics at its best. When will DC drain the swamp? When will these councilmen understand that taxpayers around here are fed up with bad services so their buddies can keep the place like the "District of the Congo" not the "District of Columbia"? Why are Uber and DC residents being penalized for paying a fair price for a service just because it is better than the ones your buddies provide? It certainly is safer and more efficient than the system DC government seems to endorse. The culture of corruption in the city has got to stop. Why don't you penalize these repulsive cab drivers? Why are you punishing a company that provides a service that people like and use? You get your tax money so what is the issue???? I don't get it.

Meghan Johnson  
Capitol Hill resident

**From:** [Eric Uhler](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Taxi Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:10 PM

---

Taxi cabs are in disrepair, refuse service to riders based on destination, and I've even witnessed several occasions of drivers sexually harassing patrons. Now Uber arrives and wants to offer a reasonably priced alternative to the filthy cabs that troll our city and what does the City Council want to do? Deny the citizens of DC the ability to make their own transportation decisions based on the harping of the [corrupt](#) and overly influential taxi lobby. As a voter in this city and in your ward, one who is already tired of the corruption, scandals and fiscal mismanagement that plague our daily lives do you really want to pass a law that denies a voter a service they already use and depend on?

The point of technology is that it introduces new ideas to old marketplaces and inspires innovations in how and where we as informed consumers can participate in the marketplace. I use Uber almost every week. The most important roll it plays for me as your constituent is being able to call for a car, have it arrive in a timely manner and know that it will be clean and safe for myself or for my female friends. I can see exactly where the driver is on the iPhone map so at night, in unfamiliar places that cabs won't or don't go, I know I can get safe, reliable transportation.

For decades the city council has failed the citizens in respect of effective cab regulation. Our cities cabs are a joke compared to other metropolitan areas like Chicago and New York. It makes me not only angry and frustrated but also sad that the city council and you as a member of said council would try to inhibit positive innovations in a long neglected marketplace. If you approve this measure you will not have my vote in the next election and I will tell all of my friends and neighbors my negative views of your position on important civic matters.

thank you for your time,  
Eric Uhler



**From:** [Eric Uhler](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber taxi amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:42 PM

---

Taxi cabs are in disrepair, refuse service to riders based on destination, and I've even witnessed several occasions of drivers sexually harassing patrons. Now Uber arrives and wants to offer a reasonably priced alternative to the filthy cabs that troll our city and what does the City Council want to do? Deny the citizens of DC the ability to make their own transportation decisions based on the harping of the [corrupt](#) and overly influential taxi lobby. As a voter in this city and in your ward, one who is already tired of the corruption, scandals and fiscal mismanagement that plague our daily lives do you really want to pass a law that denies a voter a service they already use and depend on?

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thank you for your time,  
Eric Uhler

**From:** [Mike Q](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Taxi Law  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:15:50 AM

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Good Morning Councilman,

I am hoping that this message reaches you before you make a mistake. Please reconsider your position on the Uber amendment ratification today. They are an excellent service and everyone in The District and surrounding neighborhoods benefits from their services whether a direct customer or from the spirit of capitalism and competition. I am left without a reasonable explanation as to how anyone would support this proposition absent a strong lobbying effort of a single group interested in retaining their monopoly. Please let me know how you intend to vote and on what basis. I will be reporting this information through my blog and list group services and wish to do so accurately and fairly. Your comments will be shared verbatim without edit. Thank you for your time,  
Mike

**From:** [Alex Migoya](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Taxi Needs to Compete: Strike Down Minimum Fare Language on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:25:26 PM

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Dear DC City Council Members,

I was shocked and dismayed, after seeing so many of you march in the Palisades parade claiming you were for a less corrupt and more honest DC City Council, when I received an email from a FANTASTIC new taxi company, Uber Taxi informing me that "The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare."

This is shocking and blatant protectionism. The DC taxi companies are horrendous on more counts than I can begin. I live in the Palisades neighborhood and I CANNOT use a taxi service with any kind of reliability. I must drive all over this City needlessly, because it is unlikely that if I call a cab (any of them) that someone will be able to send me a car with any kind of certainty to go downtown at 7pm in the evening on a given weekday. If they say they will come, 90% of the time they won't and they won't call you or text you to let you know. It is apparently acceptable to just wait, miss your appointments and rely on another form of transportation. This is unacceptable in a city such as ours. When I began using UBER a month or so ago I was amazed that I could rely on a cab company to:

1. Arrive within a stated amount of time;
2. Notify me if they were running late;
3. Speak to me clearly and in a polite tone;
4. Provide a clean car to ride in;

and all for a price that is comparable to a DC taxi cab.

It is that simple. It is absolutely un-American to impede a private company from succeeding merely for fear it will put a broken system out of business or jeopardize its viability. I cannot state strongly enough how disgusted and disappointed I am that these are the politics still being played so blatantly and shamelessly in this City.

Please do not prevent Uber from providing a quality and NECESSARY service to our city.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Migoya Freedman  
Ward 3

**From:** [Thomas Wieczorek](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Transportation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:05 PM

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Good evening,

I recently became aware that the DC council intends to vote to prohibit Uber Transportation Service from lowering fares in the DC area; it actually intends to force the company to increase costs to a resident such as myself.

I find this to be outrageous. I rarely use DC cabs because they are akin to a third world rickshaw. Actually, a rickshaw is probably more clean and reliable than most of the DC cabs I have been unwittingly charged to use. When I have visitors to DC for business or, as in the past month, my daughter and friends, I call Uber and they arrange to punctually appear and transport in a clean, air-conditioned vehicle. I can access them on an "App" from my phone and see where they are at any given moment.

My husband and I have also dressed up occasionally for costume events and I would challenge DC council members to find a cab that will pick you up if you are in heels or drag. My husband and I live at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and K and DC cabs apparently think that we are "working girls" that frequent this strip because even when we called a cab, it pulled up and drove off before we could get to the door. In another case we were taken to Kennedy Center for an event by way of Georgetown; I ended up telling the cab driver how to get to Kennedy and then we had to walk three blocks because he couldn't figure out the entrance configuration.

If I do need a cab to get to DCA, I call Red Top Cabs out of Virginia because I can be assured they will arrive at our house on time and with a clean vehicle. We have never (and I travel at least two times a month from DCA) had such response from DC cabs.

To conclude, I sincerely request that the council keep its time to fixing the DC cab system and let the market do what it should have done long ago – fix the taxi service in our nation's capital. Artificially mandating higher costs and fees that will be passed on to consumers is insulting to this registered voter and I will make sure that others remain aware of what is happening.

Thank you for your expected support in assisting a business such as Uber to reform the dismal alternatives we have for getting around our beautiful city.

Sincerely,

**Thomas J. Wieczorek**  
Director  
ICMA Center for Public Safety Management

475 K Street, NW #702  
Washington, DC



**From:** [Thomas Wieczorek](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Transportation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:25 PM

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Good evening,

I recently became aware that the DC council intends to vote to prohibit Uber Transportation Service from lowering fares in the DC area; it actually intends to force the company to increase costs to a resident such as myself.

I find this to be outrageous. I rarely use DC cabs because they are akin to a third world rickshaw. Actually, a rickshaw is probably more clean and reliable than most of the DC cabs I have been unwittingly charged to use. When I have visitors to DC for business or, as in the past month, my daughter and friends, I call Uber and they arrange to punctually appear and transport in a clean, air-conditioned vehicle. I can access them on an "App" from my phone and see where they are at any given moment.

My husband and I have also dressed up occasionally for costume events and I would challenge DC council members to find a cab that will pick you up if you are in heels or drag. My husband and I live at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and K and DC cabs apparently think that we are "working girls" that frequent this strip because even when we called a cab, it pulled up and drove off before we could get to the door. In another case we were taken to Kennedy Center for an event by way of Georgetown; I ended up telling the cab driver how to get to Kennedy and then we had to walk three blocks because he couldn't figure out the entrance configuration.

If I do need a cab to get to DCA, I call Red Top Cabs out of Virginia because I can be assured they will arrive at our house on time and with a clean vehicle. We have never (and I travel at least two times a month from DCA) had such response from DC cabs.

To conclude, I sincerely request that the council keep its time to fixing the DC cab system and let the market do what it should have done long ago – fix the taxi service in our nation's capital. Artificially mandating higher costs and fees that will be passed on to consumers is insulting to this registered voter and I will make sure that others remain aware of what is happening.

Thank you for your expected support in assisting a business such as Uber to reform the dismal alternatives we have for getting around our beautiful city.

Sincerely,

**Thomas J. Wieczorek**  
Director  
ICMA Center for Public Safety Management

475 K Street, NW #702  
Washington, DC



**From:** [Thomas Wieczorek](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Transportation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:44 PM

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Good evening,

I recently became aware that the DC council intends to vote to prohibit Uber Transportation Service from lowering fares in the DC area; it actually intends to force the company to increase costs to a resident such as myself.

I find this to be outrageous. I rarely use DC cabs because they are akin to a third world rickshaw. Actually, a rickshaw is probably more clean and reliable than most of the DC cabs I have been unwittingly charged to use. When I have visitors to DC for business or, as in the past month, my daughter and friends, I call Uber and they arrange to punctually appear and transport in a clean, air-conditioned vehicle. I can access them on an "App" from my phone and see where they are at any given moment.

My husband and I have also dressed up occasionally for costume events and I would challenge DC council members to find a cab that will pick you up if you are in heels or drag. My husband and I live at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and K and DC cabs apparently think that we are "working girls" that frequent this strip because even when we called a cab, it pulled up and drove off before we could get to the door. In another case we were taken to Kennedy Center for an event by way of Georgetown; I ended up telling the cab driver how to get to Kennedy and then we had to walk three blocks because he couldn't figure out the entrance configuration.

If I do need a cab to get to DCA, I call Red Top Cabs out of Virginia because I can be assured they will arrive at our house on time and with a clean vehicle. We have never (and I travel at least two times a month from DCA) had such response from DC cabs.

To conclude, I sincerely request that the council keep its time to fixing the DC cab system and let the market do what it should have done long ago – fix the taxi service in our nation's capital. Artificially mandating higher costs and fees that will be passed on to consumers is insulting to this registered voter and I will make sure that others remain aware of what is happening.

Thank you for your expected support in assisting a business such as Uber to reform the dismal alternatives we have for getting around our beautiful city.

Sincerely,

**Thomas J. Wieczorek**  
Director  
ICMA Center for Public Safety Management  
[475 K Street, NW #702](#)



Washington, DC



**From:** [dan king](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber transportation amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:25:39 AM

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Tommy,

As you should be well aware, it is very difficult to get a cab in SW if you need to call one. If I have guests for dinner, a cab can take 15 min or 2 hours to come after called. You are always trying to talk someone to give a guests a ride where they can get a cab. Along came Uber that gives godd service. It is expensive but reliable when you definitely are desperate.

There proposal is to bring in some hybrid cars and charge a lower rate. This proposal is being hotly fought by the taxi industry and many council members. All you generally hear about the Council is about how corrupt they are and who is buying them off. This is realistically the view of the majority of residents of DC that I know. There cannot possibility be a reason not to give the residents expanded car service. Uber is too expensive for many residents but they seem to be making an effort to give more levels of service,\. I have used them and assure there is no comparison to our lousy cab service. Cab service has not gotten any better in the 40 years that I have lived in SW. These types of proposals should never be controversial except for the possibitily of lining the pockets of our politicians.

Dan King

**From:** [Liam Julian](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:49:29 PM

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Dear Councilmembers Catania, Brown, and Orange:

The taxi monopoly in this city is rather shameful. One hopes the council won't stifle much-needed competition in this arena under the guise of "regulation."

Please support Councilmember Evans's amendment today.

Sincerely,

Liam Julian, Ward 2 voter

**From:** [Jeannine Mohler](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:11:37 PM

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Tomorrow is a chance to show you stand for creative innovation by standing with Uber and not for taxi interests who, at a minimum, do not want to compete with and match the exemplary service that Uber provides, and at a maximum are just plain greedy. I use both taxis and Ubers depending on the situation - they each have their place - and I can't support an industry monopoly just because taxi interests are behind the curve and a step behind Uber. If they want, they can sign up to work with Taximagic and have many of the same features Uber provides. Thank you, Jeannine Mohler

**From:** [Elizabeth Fawell](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:32:52 PM

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I am writing to voice my support for the free-market. Please do not create artificial barriers to support the taxi industry in D.C. Uber has created an efficient and effective service that is far better than the taxi cabs who fail to show up when called.

I urge you to **Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

Elizabeth Fawell

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20015

**From:** [Traci Siegel](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:02:54 PM

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Council Members -

The thing that makes both Washington, DC and America great is innovation, and our ability to lift all boats by constantly improving on old models and ways of doing business.

As a 20-year DC resident who proudly lives without a car and relies completely on public transportation to get around, I can tell you this is exactly what Uber has done for DC. The taxicab system here is antiquated and highly inconvenient, with absolutely no concern for customer service. Were it not, Uber would not have been able to grow and thrive in our city as quickly as it has, plain and simple.

Please do the right thing and allow Uber to operate without artificially escalating its price floor, and allow them to initiate their lower-cost service. Doing so will serve the best interests of your constituents while using market forces to help make changes within the DC taxicab system. This way we all win!

Thank you for your consideration...we'll all be watching your votes with interest.

Traci Siegel  
Ward 2

**From:** [Trisha Merriman](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:56:44 PM

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Dear Council members,

It has come to my attention that the DC Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from implementing lower rates. As a DC resident, I would like to express my concern and advocate Uber's expansion of a lower-rate hybrid fleet. Uber is a fantastic alternative when DC cabs are unavailable or, speaking as female, one would prefer a safer more professional driver. I have had only good experiences with Uber and, unfortunately, cannot say the same for my experiences with DC cabs. In one instance, my cab was pulled over by a police officer and turned out to not be a legal driver! This was extremely disturbing and made me seriously question the legitimacy of District cab drivers.

I would encourage all of you, if you haven't already, to experience the convenience and peace of mind that Uber offers its customers. Lastly, the fact that Uber is promoting sustainable vehicles, making the District a more environmentally friendly place, can only makes our local government look better!

Please be mindful with your vote and recognize that many residents in the District would benefit from Uber's rates being lower; especially people who already love convenient, safe, and reliable transportation that Uber provides!

Very Sincerely,

Trisha Merriman  
DC Resident

**From:** [Jeff Hosley](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:48:04 PM


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Gentlemen-

As a new user of the Uber service, I find the drivers friendlier and the service more convenient than provided by 90% of the cab drivers in DC. It's not insignificant that the Council has already voted to keep prices artificially high to PROTECT a taxi industry with drivers who are less than enthusiastic in providing good service (cars that are falling apart, they don't want to turn A/C on, etc.). What is the reason for that? Are you saying that it would destroy the taxi industry? If so, provide a plan that would phase it in over a set period in order to let the drivers join Uber or another service that forces them to provide a more convenient, safer, and enjoyable ride.

I trust that each of you would not vote to keep these prices artificially high and enable DC citizens access to a lower-cost, and yet better, taxi service.

If you've been working on over-turning the Hank's ban on outside dining, thank you for your help on that issue.

Jeff Hosley  




**From:** [Zander](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:40 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I live in your ward and am an avid supporter of Uber. I don't know where you stand exactly on the impending vote to deny a lower cost version of Uber, but your constituency would be much better served by allowing this service to operate. Please do not protect an inefficient and poorly run industry (the taxi operators in DC) by setting an artificial price floor on a service that has exceptional customer service and that greatly benefits the community. The increased competition with taxis will encourage them to improve standards and service, which will be a benefit to everyone in DC who has occasion to use a taxi or similar service.

To be clear, I am asking that you vote to STRIKE 8C (Remove sedan prices) from the language below in the new bill.

#### Part B. — Uber Amendments

6. Sec. 2 (c)(5A) (Page 5) is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase “public vehicle-for-hire ride” and insert the phrase “taxicab ride” in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would clarify that the 50-cent taxicab surcharge applies to taxicabs.

7. Sec. 20m (a) (Page 36-7) is amended as follows:

Strike the phrase “The Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, including, but not limited to” and insert the phrase “On or before July 1, 2013, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of such vehicles, which may include, but not be limited to” in its place.

#### Explanation and Rationale

- This section would require the Commission to issue rules regarding sedans within 1 year.
- Currently, the bill permits the Commission to issue regulations but the Commission is not required to do so.

8. New subsections (c) and (d) are added to the new Sec. 20m (Page 36-7) to read

as follows:

“(c) (1) The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a).

“(2) The time and distance rates for sedan-class vehicles shall be greater than the time and distance rates for taxicabs, as established by as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (b) and (c).

“(3) On or after July 1, 2013, affected persons or businesses may petition the Commission to change the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection by rule for good cause shown.

“(d) For the purposes of this section, a business that connects its customers to sedans shall be exempt from regulation by the Commission, provided that:

“(1) The business provides an estimated fare to the customer when a sedan is booked;

“(2) The method for calculating the fare structure and the applicable rates are provided by the business to the user of the mobile application prior to booking a sedan;

“(3) Upon completion of the trip, the customer is provided a receipt that lists the origination and destination of the trip, the total distance and time of the trip, and the total fare paid; and

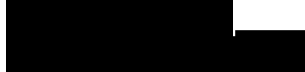
“(4) The sedans operating this service are licensed and comply with the requirements of this section.”.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

--

Zander Lanfried



**From:** [Nick Baumann](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:45 PM

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Dear Sirs,

Please do not vote for a minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles. Thank you.

Best,  
Nick Baumann  
Voter  
Ward 1

--

Nick Baumann  
voice. [REDACTED]

**From:** [Ellen Kirsh](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:28 PM

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I am a frequent user of Uber here in DC, as well as in other cities. Uber offers a great service, and should be allowed to expand it to include more affordable and environmentally superior cars. Why shouldn't more people in DC get to take advantage of such a great service? Why should the DC Council decide who should take taxis--isn't that something people in DC should be able decide for themselves?

--

--

Ellen Kirsh

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Ellen Kirsh](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:07 PM

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I am a frequent user of Uber here in DC, as well as in other cities. Uber offers a great service, and should be allowed to expand it to include more affordable and environmentally superior cars. Why shouldn't more people in DC get to take advantage of such a great service? Why should the DC Council decide who should take taxis--isn't that something people in DC should be able decide for themselves?

--

--

Ellen Kirsh

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Ellen Kirsh](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:08 PM

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I am a frequent user of Uber here in DC, as well as in other cities. Uber offers a great service, and should be allowed to expand it to include more affordable and environmentally superior cars. Why shouldn't more people in DC get to take advantage of such a great service? Why should the DC Council decide who should take taxis--isn't that something people in DC should be able decide for themselves?

--

--

Ellen Kirsh

[REDACTED]

cell:

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Donna Burnett](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:52 PM

---

Tommy,  
Uber is one of our clients and they offer a terrific service. I just got this email from them about the DC Council preventing them from lowering fares. This seems more than a little ridiculous. Please do not vote to keep prices artificially high.  
Thank you for all the hard work you do.  
Donna

"On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand."

**Donna G. Burnett**

President

**Contact 1, Inc.**

910 17th Street, NW

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20006

[dgburnett@contact1inc.com](mailto:dgburnett@contact1inc.com)

Phone: [REDACTED] ext.101

Fax: [REDACTED]

[www.contact1inc.com](http://www.contact1inc.com)

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**From:** [Todd Vassar](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:49 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

Please do not vote against Uber tomorrow. They are an incredible alternative to the consistently awful DC Cab service I have received for the past 9 years. Particularly in Ward 6, it is very hard to get a cab. Friends from NW have declined many visits citing this reason and I have experienced it for myself.

My first use of Uber was incredible. No attempts to screw me or take the slowest route to my destination. No attitude. No asking me where I was going and then telling me "no." No constant chatter by the driver on his cell phone. Instead, I received a polite driver in what appeared to be a safe, clean car with functional air conditioning.

Why would the DC Council want to deny it's citizens this option? Please allow your constituents an alternative to the nightmare of DC cabs.

Thanks,

--

Todd Vassar, Realtor  
Lindsay Reishman Real Estate

 (cell)  
[www.toddvassar.com](http://www.toddvassar.com)

I'm never too busy for any of your referrals



**From:** [Matt Krimm](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** UBER Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:26 PM

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I am in support of UBER's business model expanding in DC. UBER is a great alternative to regular cabs. They arrive on time anywhere I request, the cars are great running condition (always have A/C), and the drivers are not talking on their cell phones the whole ride. It's a better transportation experience and one that should remain for Washington DC.

I also own a small retail business in the downtown area, and have heard from numerous customers that they use UBER both day and evenings to get to my shop, as parking can be impossible in the area.

Thank you for considering this important transportation option for the residents of DC.

Matt Krimm  
Home address:  
520 N. Street SW #S-117  
Washington DC 20024  
Business:  
W. Curtis Draper  
699 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington DC 20005

**From:** [Ty Wesley Cobb](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:39:46 PM

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Councilmember Wells:

I just became aware of the vote that is taking place tomorrow, and I am writing to support Uber and Uberx.

I cannot tell you the number of times that I have been verbally assaulted by DC taxi cab drivers, subjected to disgusting smells, refused service because the taxi cab driver didn't want to go where I was going, watched visitors get price gouged because they didn't know the rules, and known two women who have been physically assaulted by their taxi cab drivers. Why does DC City Council continue to protect these companies and drivers while trying to find ways to punish Uber and attempt to make them less competitive? Why would the City Council take moves to shield them from a competitor trying to provide a service to DC residents that residents are asking for? It clearly is not for a good public policy reason or for the DC consumers and residents. A move to support these provisions would lead me to believe the step is purely for some political reason. Uber provides a service that is safer than DC taxi cabs, cleaner than DC taxi cabs, more efficient than DC taxi cabs- in short a safer alternative of better value than DC taxi cabs. If Uber is taking away DC taxi cab business it is only because the DC taxi cabs' service is so poor, and its time to stop protecting them and force them to improve service. If they were providing a service that people wanted, there would be no room in the market for Uber.

Finally, and I might be misreading this- but is this literally in a section titled the "Uber" Amendments? Are you really about to legislate against a single company? I think this is a vile misuse of your position to support this. I find it absolutely appalling that this is even on the table.

I don't know how you see things from where you sit, but I am telling you that people are watching this, and it is playing very, very poorly for the members of the City Council who have supported these moves. Not to mention it is embarrassing as a resident when everyone I know who visits from other major cities already think our taxis are the laughing stock compared to other cities with which DC tries to compare itself.

Please act to strike this language.

Ty Cobb



WDC 20001

Ward 6

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Colleen Murray](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote Today  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:32:06 AM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

I am tax paying DC resident of more than a decade. I love this city and all it has to offer. But some of the acts of our local elected leaders have left me really scratching my head. Case and point: today's vote to PREVENT a local transportation service for offering lower fares. Of course, I am referring to Uber.

I use DC cabs about 90% of the time. But sometimes, there aren't any around to hail. And calling to schedule a pickup with no cab ever showing up has happened to me so many times that I have stopped trying. In those cases, having access to Uber from my phone is a huge help. I am a single woman and have been attacked walking in the evening by myself. I won't do it anymore. So I need to rely on cabs or Uber to get me home. Please don't prevent me from having an affordable alternative to get home safely, in the case that there are no cabs on the street to hail. Yes, this is about free choice and economics, but it is also about the safety of your residents. I hope you will take that into consideration when you vote today.

Sincerely,

Colleen Murray

**From:** [Colleen Murray](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote Today  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:30:55 AM

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Dear Councilman Brown,

I am tax-paying DC resident of more than a decade. I love this city and all it has to offer. But some of the acts of our local elected leaders have left me really scratching my head. Case and point: today's vote to PREVENT a local transportation service for offering lower fares. Of course, I am referring to Uber.

I use DC taxicabs about 90 percent of the time. But sometimes, there aren't any around to hail. And calling to schedule a pickup with no cab ever showing up has happened to me so many times that I have stopped trying. In those cases, having access to Uber from my phone is a huge help. I am a single woman and have been attacked walking in the evening by myself. I won't walk home at night anymore. So I need to rely on cabs or Uber to get me home. Please don't prevent me from having an affordable alternative to get home safely, in the case that there are no cabs on the street to hail. Yes, this is about free choice and economics, but it is also about the safety of your residents. I hope you will take that into consideration when you vote today.

Sincerely,

Colleen Murray

**From:** [Katri Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vote tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:57:42 PM

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I'm sure you have received many emails regarding this issue. My comments are short. I live near RFK. I find it difficult to get a cab to take me home at night when I give my address, and impossible to get a cab to pick me up, especially on a weekend evening. Uber has saved my life with this issue. Most of the time I don't feel safe in dc taxis, and definitely not when driving/walking/biking near them. The lack of credit card service is a joke at this point in 2012. I haven't minded the higher costs of uber because they actually pick me up, take credit cards, and are courteous. Why must I be punished by almost doubling their minimum fare? Every taxi in dc should be learning from ubers model, no wonder they feel threatened. I recommend uber to everyone these days. Please support them and dont force ths rate increase.

Katri hunter

<http://www.princeofpetworth.com/2012/07/dc-council-is-voting-tomorrow-to-prevent-uber-from-lowering-rates/#comments-section>

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Cole, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:24 PM

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As a voter who actually votes in Ward 6, I ask that you DO NOT vote for the amendment that would make Uber an outrageously expensive alternative to DC cabs. It is unreal to me that you would fix prices like this in such a way that is ANTI-consumer. Uber offers a safe, reliable and clean option to DC cabs. I spend hundreds of dollars every week on DC cabs and I can honestly say that I rarely get into a cab that is worth the outrageous prices that I pay and you've sanctioned.

I will be watching this vote tomorrow and if you vote for this horrible proposal, although I've never been involved in DC politics, I will **actively** work for whoever runs against you to get you replaced on the City Council. I ask that you represent your constituents and vote NO.

**Kelly Cole**



Washington, DC 20003



**From:** [David Gilliland](#)  
**To:** [Jim Graham](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber vs. the Taxi Industry  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:18 PM

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Dear Mr. Chairman and Councilmen,

I just received a very interesting message from the CEO of Uber. In his message, he contends that the Council intends "to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form."

He goes on to say that, "The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price."

I have only used Uber a couple of times, but I can tell you that they offer a FAR SUPERIOR service to the DC taxi system. I use the regular taxi system 98% of the time. But when I need clean, reliable, consistent good service, I have used Uber. The cars are always nice and clean, the A/C is already on and you can pay via credit card. This heat wave is a perfect example of what is wrong with the present taxi system. Yes, there are rules that they must use A/C "at the customer's request." But when you hail a cab in 105-degree heat, who isn't running his A/C when you get in, the cab doesn't cool down until you get to your destination. By then you're a sweaty mess. Why aren't they required to have windows up, and A/C on when the temperature is above 80? Uber provides that service, and I am willing to pay more for it.

I appreciate all the Council (and Mayor) are doing to improve the lackluster taxi system in DC - it's long overdue - but history shows that competition, not government regulation, is what guarantees the best service. Please do not take competition out of the equation by regulating Uber out of the system. Please work with them, not penalize them, to ensure that me and every other DC resident has a multitude of choices when it comes to clean and reliable transportation.

David Gilliland

Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Craig Strent](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber X Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:57 PM

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As a regular user of cabs in the District, I find it disgraceful that you are prohibiting a free market among cab companies. This is not good for business, tourism, citizens, or anyone for that matter. Do you represent the people of the District or the taxicab companies?

Craig Strent



**From:** [Wendy Roth](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:18:49 PM

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ok, so I'm no longer a DC resident. But before you hit the "delete" button: I attended grad school in the District, lived there many years, and now my daughter lives there with her family.

I come to town regularly to meet with business clients and legislators, and to visit family.

I'm not a computer whiz, but I was so thrilled with the excellent service provided by Uber that I uploaded their app on my iPhone. I would not willingly use any other cab service.

Recently a friend came to DC with me to help me take care of my two young grandchildren. When she (a NH schoolteacher) left for the airport, I was able to send her off in total comfort and safety in a clean car that arrived promptly with a courteous driver, and with the fare already paid on my credit card. That would have been impossible in a regular DC cab.

PLEASE DO NOT VOTE TO PENALIZE UBER!!!! I AM ONE OF MANY WHO WANT THEIR SERVICE TO CONTINUE!!

Wendy Roth  
Charlotte, Vermont

**From:** [Eileen](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber, Capitalism and the Invisible Hand  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:51:51 PM

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Mr. Evans, Mr. Catania and Mr. Orange,

Uber is a fantastic service that I use frequently in Washington, DC, as well as other cities around the world. If you pass legislation tomorrow, which will protect the pathetic taxi service of this city and hurt Uber's ability to be a competitive viable option, I will NOT be giving you my vote in the next election.

Sincerely,  
Eileen Quinn  
Ward 2

**From:** [Brad Gehrke](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber...  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:59:53 PM

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**From:** Brad Gehrke [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber...

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Evans:

I find it extremely discouraging that you and the DC Council are considering laws that would seem to arbitrarily limit DC residents' transportation options. This is important to me and my wife because we have never owned a car and public transportation is very important to us.

I am writing in reference to the services offered by Uber.

We typically use Metro and DC cabs, but there are times and locations where Metro is not available and it is difficult to get taxi services. In these very specific situations, Uber fills a very important void.

For example: my wife recently spent six days in Sibley Hospital. We don't own a car, and bus and taxi service at the hospital on weekends and late at night was less than reliable. Consequently, I relied on Uber for transportation between the hospital and home.

Therefore, I find it disturbing and sad that DC Council members would consider restricting fair trade in transportation services... especially as concerning Uber.

Neither my wife or I have owned a car since we have lived in the District. Consequently, we rely on public transportation and taxis. We are fully aware of the limitations in DC taxi service. As a result, we have found Uber to be a very reliable option, especially in areas with limited access to public transportation.

The number of friends and acquaintances that we meet that are enthused about Uber is surprising. My wife and I are committed DC residents and we have a substantial number friends and acquaintances that support Uber's services.

We would welcome and appreciate an open discussion on the quality and

availability of DC's public transportation, including taxi services and Metro options. Unfortunately, given tomorrow's vote, the Council has shorted the opportunity for debate. We wanted, but were denied, a full understanding of who is really in charge of various DC transportation options and the impact of arbitrary decisions to limit public transportation options.

Your response and vote will be noted.

Best regards,  
Brad Gehrke



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Josh Olmstead](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber/Sedan vs. Taxi Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:49:43 PM

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All,

It has come to my attention that the DC City Council is planning to enact an amendment that would significantly raise the fares for sedan car trips from services such as Uber. I urge you to vote against this proposition, as it would be a poor decision for the residents of Washington DC and the millions of visitors that look toward Washington DC to set an example as the nation's capital. I lived in Washington DC for 3 months this year while working for the Navy and certainly enjoyed my time in the District, in part through the convenience and service provided by companies like Uber. These companies provide a transportation alternative that enables sedan drivers to earn additional income and boost the DC economy, while granting users the convenience and service of an alternative means of transportation that is equitable, fair, and transparent. To restrict this service is to withdraw an economic freedom from the public and encourage further angst toward the sometimes frustrating transportation options currently publicly available. The ingenuity that was created by Uber is worth commending, not punishing. Please do not follow the mistakes of other metropolitans that have allowed taxi unions to restrict the greater good of the public (for example Los Angeles having no viable public transit to or from the LAX airport due to taxi unions). The fact that an amendment targeting sedan services like Uber demonstrates that it has, if anything, successfully caught the attention of the public and is something to be encouraged, not politically targeted.

Thank you for your careful consideration in making your vote. I look forward to many pleasant trips to Washington DC in the future, please help to keep this true.

Best regards,  
Joshua Olmstead  
3861 Ben St.  
San Diego, CA  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Adrian Fontecilla](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber: Good for the District  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:13:14 AM

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Support Uber, vote for an amendment with no minimum fare. I will vote and campaign against any council member that does not. The DC taxi system requires modernization, Uber stands for modernized transportation, and it's a serious issue for your constituents. DC residents are tired of an antiquated taxi system that serves only the cab unions. Join us please. Thank you for your time.

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 12:50 AM, Adrian Fontecilla <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I live in Shaw and have been a voting DC resident for six years, and I am an avid user of Uber's services. I am appalled that the Council is considering the Uber amendment fixing a minimum price and other limits on Uber's services. Uber makes it possible for me to, for example: catch early flights before metro is open (whereas cabs have often not shown up when called); get home safely after a late night in neighborhoods not usually serviced by cabs at those hours (read: Bloomingdale, H street and Navy Yard); and pay for a ride even after my wallet has been lost (or pay the fare remotely for a loved one who has drank too much or been in an accident and needs to get home).

They arrive faster than cabs, provide better service, and they accept payment cards. This drives competition up and consumers (read: residents) benefit, it's why the District and federal government have antitrust laws and encourage small business development.

Yet here is the Council considering setting a price floor upon a small business whose service is bettering DC in countless ways. It is decreasing the city's crime statistics by providing safe passage on demand and it is helping expand neighborhoods that DC has committed billions of dollars to developing--Bloomingdale, Shaw and the SW waterfront. Making it easier for consumers to get across town supports the growth of businesses in various neighborhoods, and it increases tax revenues and sends a message to small businesses and innovators that DC is friendly to investment. In short, supporting Uber is consistent with the goals of the council and its constituents.

Not to mention that it would be laughably ironic for the city to "modernize" its taxi system with an amendment that stunts the growth of the most positive and creative development in DC transportation since Capital Bike Share.

Folks in DC need Uber. DC needs Uber. And we all need it to be cheaper. Do not pass the anti-Uber amendment, make DC Uber-friendly. Let Uber--and future private transportation innovations--be a natural driving force for the modernization and expansion of DC's taxi system.

Thanks for your time,  
Adrian



**From:** [Adrian Fontecilla](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber: Good for the District  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:50:32 AM

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I live in Shaw and have been a voting DC resident for six years, and I am an avid user of Uber's services. I am appalled that the Council is considering the Uber amendment fixing a minimum price and other limits on Uber's services. Uber makes it possible for me to, for example: catch early flights before metro is open (whereas cabs have often not shown up when called); get home safely after a late night in neighborhoods not usually serviced by cabs at those hours (read: Bloomingdale, H street and Navy Yard); and pay for a ride even after my wallet has been lost (or pay the fare remotely for a loved one who has drank too much or been in an accident and needs to get home).

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Not to mention that it would be laughably ironic for the city to "modernize" its taxi system with an amendment that stunts the growth of the most positive and creative development in DC transportation since Capital Bike Share.

Folks in DC need Uber. DC needs Uber. And we all need it to be cheaper. Do not pass the anti-Uber amendment, make DC Uber-friendly. Let Uber--and future private transportation innovations--be a natural driving force for the modernization and expansion of DC's taxi system.

Thanks for your time,  
Adrian



**From:** [hunter bridges](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:29:13 PM

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Hi Council Members,

I love Uber, I love free markets, and I have a general distate for minimum fares. Please strike down the minimum fare language; taxis have become more and more expensive - and the quality hasn't gotten any better. In the meantime, the rest of us are just trying to keep food on the table and the lights turned on - why should I have to pay more for terrible service? What is this...Pepco?

If DC taxis want to compete, then tell them to do what every other company on earth has to do, adapt or die. Lower fares, don't drive like maniacs, keep taxis clean. Until then, embrace change. And by that I mean the jingle in your pocket.

Thanks!  
Hunter

--

Hunter Bridges  
American University - Washington College of Law  
J.D. Candidate - 2012

**From:** [Steven Koltai](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber-taxi reform  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:31:53 PM

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Dear DC Leaders -

I am a DC resident (Watergate East, 2510 Virginia Ave NW, 20037) and a very frequent Uber user. I have lived all over the country and the world. Washington has the worst taxi system of any city in the US and certainly, any city in the rest of the industrialized world. The presence of Uber changed my ability to get around and was, in fact, one of the reasons I decided to remain in DC and build my consulting business here. I understand that bending to the vested interests of the taxi industry, you are considering essentially putting Uber out of business in DC. This would be a TERRIBLE MISTAKE. I am not only a very happy client of Uber's but I also specialize in developing entrepreneurship around the country and the world. I was Secretary Clinton's Senior Advisor for Entrepreneurship until a few months ago. Government action has been shown time and again to make or break entrepreneurial initiative. Uber is a "poster child" for a successful entrepreneurial venture. It has not only provided a hugely important service to the public but it has also allowed individual drivers to build their business far beyond what they were able to do before. All of this as an alternative to what I am certain you know is indeed, the worst taxi service in the nation. Please don't be held hostage to that industry and please do support Uber by striking down the minimum fare language that is clearly targeting this one great entrepreneurial company. Thanks

Steven Koltai  
Koltai & Company, LLC  
@stevenkoltai  
www.stevenkoltai.com

"World peace through entrepreneurship"

**From:** [Shelton/Sam](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:41:44 AM

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Councilmen,

I write to you today as a seven year resident of DC and current resident of Ward 1. I was shocked and dismayed to learn of your plans to block Uber's lower price alternative for DC residents. This is precisely the type of service that the city needs. With its hybrid fleet, Uber not only intends to add a valuable service to the city but also an eco-friendly one. Your decision to outlaw this new rollout is incomprehensible especially when you consider that it is in favor of protecting a taxi/cab system that is inefficient, costly, and discriminatory.

The DC taxi cab system in this city is the worst I've encountered. As a young, African-American male, I can tell you that I've been passed by on NUMEROUS occasions while trying to get a ride home. If it were not for my white partner, he and I wouldn't be able to get around town at all.

In addition to their discriminatory practices, the cabs are often dirty and smoky. The alternative being offered by Uber is a welcome change. The cab drivers make no effort to accommodate riders by providing alternative means of payment. In fact, many complain when I have \$20 bill as if it is my job to provide them with change! Honestly, they have made no effort to provide better service and now that something better is coming along, you want to stop it. Shame.

Think of the hard-working people in your Ward and the District as a whole that you purport to represent. Do not cave to the taxi lobbyist or whomever is driving this wrong-headed law and do what you know to be right.

Shelton S. Smallwood

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20010

**From:** [kay\\_jacks](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uberx  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:02:15 AM

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Tommy, i am a Capitol Hill home owner who supports uber. The cabs in DC are often filthy dirty, unfriendly and unreliable. I use uber because I trust their safety and reliability.

Please do not support a law restricting their ability to LOWER fares. How crazy is that?

--

Kay Jacks & Associates  
5714516312

**From:** [Bryce Maddock](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:21:47 PM

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Council Members,

As a frequent user of Uber in D.C. I am shocked and appalled by your protectionist policies and cronyism with the taxi industry. Please let the free market guide prices and riders get the best possible deal. Stop punishing the people of D.C. to line your campaign coffers with dirty taxi money.

Bryce

[ABOUT TASKUS](#)

Bryce Maddock

[www.taskus.com](http://www.taskus.com) | [REDACTED]  
o: [REDACTED] | c: [REDACTED]  
3400 Airport Ave Bldg D Santa Monica, CA 90405

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**From:** [Jason Bakke](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:02 PM

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So you've likely seen the below, regarding taxi bill establishing a floor for Uber's rates. That the government should prevent private companies from is bad enough, that it should do so at the behest of an openly discriminatory industry is pretty pathetic (try hailing a cab heading SE on Penn Ave SE).

I hope you will remedy?

Many thanks,

Jason, W6

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

## THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
- **David Catania**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

**From:** [Nicholas G. Green](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX and Taxi Regulation Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:00 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

As a constituent in your district (Ward 6) and a resident of the Capitol Hill neighborhood, I strongly urge you to vote against any amendment that would restrict Uber's ability to provide a low-cost alternative to taxis in the District.

I can attest to the difficulty of getting a taxicab to and from Capitol Hill, particularly when arriving late night at Union Station -- all because cab drivers apparently feel that it is not a long enough distance (read: high enough fare) to justify losing their spot in the taxi queue. This is assuming, of course, that there are any taxis in the queue at Union Station late a night. The alternative, before Uber, was to walk 1.5 miles home late at night, with luggage, and inevitably becoming a target for crime.

I have since found Uber to be a great alternative, and a market competitor that offers a better service than taxis -- which will inevitably lead to better service among taxis. A win-win for residents of the District.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Green

[REDACTED]

Washington, D.C.



**From:** [Greg Lavallee](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX and the Minimum Fare Requirement  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:52:07 AM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I've lived in Ward 2 since 2003 and have very rarely had reason to disagree with the city council. I'm writing today to ask you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Not only does having a minimum fare aimed at a single company seem unfair to competition, this act against a technology-driven business new to the district will be a detriment to the progress this city has made in the last ten years towards becoming a technology hub. As a software engineer, I like to think that I've helped DC make strides towards having a tech sector, and I see a move against Uber as a major step backwards. We need to let tech companies know that DC can be a market, rather than perpetuate the rumor that we're stifled by bureaucracy and corruption.

Thanks for your time,

Greg Lavallee  
@greglavallee  
[REDACTED]  
#401  
Washington, DC 20005  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jack Costello](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBERX in SW  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:08:33 PM

---

Council Member Wells,

SW needs a reliable, safe, and accountable system that offers rides to the greater DC area. Don't let DC to fall victim to the inefficiencies of the DC Cab Commission. Competition is good and will be doing the cabs in DC a favor by keeping them honest, fair, reliable and efficient.

I rely on Uber services for reliable service to SW for myself and my girlfriend.

Thanks,

John Costello



**From:** [Jeff Berkowitz](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX vote tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:32 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I have lived in Washington for over 15 years and in fact worked on your first campaign for the council in 1997. I have always appreciated your independence and strong voice for the people of this city on the council. Therefore, it is my hope that tomorrow you will vote to remove the minimum rate requirement being placed on Uber to prohibit this innovative new service from flourishing in our city with a more affordable and greener alternative to their current luxury offering. As a Hill resident who does not own a car, I try to take metro or walk as much as possible. However, it is not always possible and it is incredibly difficult for those of us in Hill East to hail a cab or even get one to come when called. There are many areas of the city that are similarly underserved by taxis. Uber has provided a solution to this challenge but it currently comes only at a steep premium price. Their new service, which the City Council will wrongheadly vote to prohibit tomorrow, would offer a more affordable (and greener -- since it will use a fleet of hybrids) option for those of us with the need to travel where metro, bikes and our feet may not be able to carry us. It is a sad testament to our times that lower income residents would be denied access to this transportation option while those with the financial means can take fancy car service. I hope that you will live up to the expectations we the voters had in continuing to send you to the council as an independent, at-large representative of the people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Berkowitz

**From:** [Jeff Berkowitz](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UberX vote tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:04 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I have lived on Capitol Hill since 2003 -- first in a rental apartment on 6th St. NE and now in a condo at Jenkins Row and soon to move into a rowhouse on K St. SE. Throughout my time on Capitol Hill, I have appreciated your efforts to make this a more livable, walkable city. And you have won my vote in each election because of these efforts and because you are always attentive to your constituents' needs and concerns, even when they are diverse and potentially contradictory. Therefore, it is my hope that tomorrow you will vote to remove the minimum rate requirement being placed on Uber to prohibit this innovative new service from flourishing in our city with a more affordable and greener alternative to their current luxury offering. As a Hill resident who does not own a car, I try to take metro or walk as much as possible. However, it is not always possible and it is incredibly difficult for those of us in Hill East to hail a cab or even get one to come when called. Uber has provided a solution to this challenge but it currently comes only at a steep premium price. Their new service, which the City Council will wrongheadly vote to prohibit tomorrow, would offer a more affordable (and greener -- since it will use a fleet of hybrids) option for those of us with the need to travel where metro, bikes and our feet may not be able to carry us. It is a sad testament to our times that lower income residents would be denied access to this transportation option while those with the financial means can take fancy car service. I did not cast my ballot for you so that you could cast such a vote in the council. I hope that you will live up to the expectations we the voters had in continuing to send you to the council as our representative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your concerned constituent,

Jeff Berkowitz

**From:** [Drew Keller](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming Uber Legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41:35 AM

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Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers,

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the "Uber Amendments" as outlined in Councilmember Cheh's Bill 19-630, the "Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012." The proposed language lacks foresight, arbitrarily establishes a perpetual price floor on an independent business and continues the District's longstanding policy of, with the exception of the former Mayor Fenty forcing a move to a metered system, completely kowtowing to an industry that continues to have persistent issues with accountability, consistency of service. ability to charge riders properly and fleet maintenance.

I live and work in the District of Columbia and as you are all acutely aware our taxi system has been in dire need of modernization for years. While I do agree with much of the language in the proposed amendment I cannot understand why the Council would invite further shame on itself by effectively creating a monopoly for the taxicab industry at the expense of private enterprise and the residents of the District of Columbia. For the record, you should all note that the private sector began to solve the District's taxicab woes with the arrival of an effective alternative , not the District government. It should speak volumes to each of you that many residents would rather pay a premium and wait longer to ride in an Uber car than take a taxi.

I would like to specifically point out the shortsightedness of the "minimum fare" language in Section 8 of the proposed amendment. By pegging Uber's minimum price to five times that of the drop rate for a taxi the Council is ensuring that every time the taxicab drivers strike a better deal for themselves with the DC Taxicab Commission and increases their drop rate, Uber's will have to follow suit. Why would the Council want to force a company to charge the resident's of the District of Columbia more for a service, regardless of whether or not that company wants to raise prices? There is zero public interest for mandating a price floor for sedan and competitive alternatives to taxi service. This regulation will destroy an otherwise functioning market to unfairly benefit a single group of people.

The minimum fare language would also prevent Uber from bringing a lower cost hybrid fleet to the District, something the District government has been trying and failing to get done for years. Yet when presented with an opportunity to actually achieve this goal Council decides to legislate it out of existence.

If the amendment is passed as written I would expect a vocal backlash, and not just from the large group of taxicab drivers that protested outside the Wilson Building today, July 9th. Why the Council would want to continue to placate a taxicab industry that continues to fight change every step of the way is beyond my ability of comprehension. Why the Council would also wish to represent itself as being in the business of reducing competition in the marketplace at the expense of consumers and private enterprise is also beyond my ability of comprehension.

I urge you to reconsider the "Uber Amendments" and to not pass Bill 19-630 if the language is kept in it.

Sincerely,

Andrew Keller

**From:** [Art Garza](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:21:50 AM

---

Dear Mr. Brown:

I was recently informed that the DC council is about to vote on an amendment that would effect my Uber experience. As a long term DC resident, I am shocked that the council would even consider imposing higher fees for a service that I consider a valuable service to District residence who are fed up with the monopoly service of the DC taxi commission and it's services. I would encourage you to take a ride on an Uber service car and notice a huge difference in how we are treated as individuals and citizens of this great city...please, please don't vote for this amendment.

Best.

Art Garza

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20002

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jeff.standish](#)  
**To:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:37:00 PM

---

Rob,  
Thanks for your email. I am sure it was a long day, so your response is appreciated.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2012, at 7:18 PM, "Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)"  
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Jeff,

I'm just back to my office now, so please pardon my delayed response. Below is a brief comment that CM Bowser will soon post to the Petworth listserv explaining why she supported removing the Uber amendments. Please know that as a result of a vote today, Uber is legal and can continue to operate for the as they have been doing.

Regards,

Rob

*Today the Council voted on legislation that would overhaul the District's regulation of the taxi industry. It mandates many improvements for the rider, such as standardized appearance, credit card readers, and handicap accessibility, among others.*

*In passing this legislation, the Council also considered a relatively new and popular sedan service known as Uber. In casting my vote in favor of an amendment that would allow Uber to legally offer service in the District, I did what I felt was best for the people of Ward 4. I received an outpouring of phone calls and emails from constituents who rely on Uber's service. It provides them with clean, courteous, and premium service at a reasonable price. Most importantly, Uber serves parts of Ward 4 that many taxi companies do not reliably reach.*

*The legislation is in effect until December 31, 2012. During the intervening months, the Council will hold a hearing to consider how best to treat Uber and similar services in the long-run. Above all, our goal will be to guarantee that District residents have the ability to choose from a variety of high-quality transportation options, all of which are safe, reliable, and cost-effective.*

*As Ward 4 residents, please continue to share your thoughts with me on this subject and others. I value your opinion and take pride in knowing the issues we are working on at the Council are important to you.*

**ROB HAWKINS**

*Legislative Director*

Office of Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 110

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (202) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Click [here](#) to sign up for Councilmember Bowser's Focus on 4 e-newsletter.

---

**From:** Jeff Standish [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:51 AM

**To:** Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)

**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

Hi Rob,

I imagine you are familiar with the below bill, that is apparently being voted on today by DC City Council.

I forwarded this same email to Councilmember Bowser yesterday afternoon, but did not get a response, so I am seeking information from you. Is this vote indeed happening today? If so, what is Councilmember Bowser's position on this bill?

It would be ashame to drive healthy competition out of DC, as Uber offers RELIABLE, modernized, clean, safe, and convenient service to DC and particularly to Ward 4 (where taxi services are minimal at best).

There are many citizens in Ward 4 and around DC (including myself) that oppose this bill.

I look forward to learning of Councilmember Bowser's position and your thoughts on the bill.

Thanks,

Jeff Standish

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM

**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

**To:** Jeff Standish <[REDACTED]>

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call



UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)

Jim Graham, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED]

[@jimgrahamward1](#)

- Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)
- Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
- Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
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- David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
- Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).

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**From:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** ["Jeff Standish"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:30:01 PM

---

Hi Jeff,

I'm just back to my office now, so please pardon my delayed response. Below is a brief comment that CM Bowser will soon post to the Petworth listserv explaining why she supported removing the Uber amendments. Please know that as a result of a vote today, Uber is legal and can continue to operate for the as they have been doing.

Regards,

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Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (202) [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Jeff Standish [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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I look forward to learning of Councilmember Bowser's position and your thoughts on the bill.

Thanks,

Jeff Standish

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO < [REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Jeff Standish < [REDACTED]>

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---

Sincerely,  
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*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*

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**From:** [Michelle Leeds](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:52:32 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

Seriously? What is this?? Why are taxi rates in DC higher than any other U.S. city I've ever visited?? Why is an elected governing body making policy to benefit taxi drivers (most of whom live in Maryland) at the expense of the citizens of D.C.? It is really outrageous. And it feels really really corrupt.

I am seriously opposed to legislation that would interfere with the natural capitalistic reaction to the insanely high (and terribly overinflated) taxi cab rates in D.C. I am opposed to legislation that deprives the tax paying citizens of D.C. of affordable alternatives to the corrupt transportation system in place in our city.

Sincerely,

Michelle Leeds  
1731 Willard St NW #303  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Prefer any responses by email, not U.S. Post, thanks)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Michelle Leeds <[REDACTED]>

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- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@tommywells](#)
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- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*





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San Francisco, CA 94105

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@Uber\_DC

**From:** [Michelle Leeds](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:51:40 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown,

Seriously? What is this?? Why are taxi rates in DC higher than any other U.S. city I've ever visited?? Why is an elected governing body making policy to benefit taxi drivers (most of whom live in Maryland) at the expense of the citizens of D.C.? It is really outrageous. And it feels really really corrupt.

I am seriously opposed to legislation that would interfere with the natural capitalistic reaction to the insanely high (and terribly overinflated) taxi cab rates in D.C. I am opposed to legislation that deprives the tax paying citizens of D.C. of affordable alternatives to the corrupt transportation system in place in our city.

Sincerely,

Michelle Leeds

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

(Prefer any responses by email, not U.S. Post, thanks)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Michelle Leeds <[REDACTED]>

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

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to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

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- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
  
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
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- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



---

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Graig Norden](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Travis, Uber CEO](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:38:54 PM

---

Please support CM Evans' amendment that would have no minimum for Uber. Time to move past the cronyism, i.e. the ex-staffer of CM Graham, who's just getting out of jail for taking bribes from the taxi cartel.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 2:33 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Graig Norden <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans

Chief of Staff

---

**From:** Graig Norden [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Graham, Jim (COUNCIL); Evans, Jack (COUNCIL); Bowser, Muriel (COUNCIL); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Wells, Thomas (COUNCIL); Alexander, Yvette (COUNCIL); Barry, Marion (COUNCIL); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council)  
**Cc:** Travis, Uber CEO  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

This is an outrage and you all should be ashamed of yourselves. When did central planning become part and parcel with free enterprise? Which lobbyists on K St. are stuffing your pockets to protect the cabs? To support this bill is to support a regressive tax and I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I VOTE.

Thanks for a great product, Travis!!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM, Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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- 
- **David Catania**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
  - **Vincent Orange**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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--

Graig

[REDACTED] (cell)  
[REDACTED] (office)

--

Graig



(cell)

(office)



**From:** [Bill Moroney](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:54:25 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown -

I just received the following message about an upcoming vote by the City Council. Assuming the message is accurate, I hope you will not vote against lower fares for green transport. How about free parking for hybrids and EVs instead? Thanks very much.

All the best,  
- Bill

-----  
William R. Moroney  
3303 Water St NW 4A - Washington, DC 20007  
[REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:50:45 PM EDT  
**To:** Bill Moroney <[REDACTED]>  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Bill Moroney](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:52:47 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania -

I just received the following message about an upcoming vote by the City Council. Assuming the message is accurate, I hope you will not vote against lower fares for green transport. How about free parking for hybrids and EVs instead? Thanks very much.

All the best,  
- Bill

-----  
William R. Moroney  
3303 Water St NW 4A - Washington, DC 20007  
[REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:50:45 PM EDT  
**To:** Bill Moroney <[REDACTED]>  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Gary Morris](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:44:11 PM

---

Dear David,

Please support Councilman Evans' amendment. The public should have more choice in transportation in the District, not less. Our taxi companies are not worthy of this kind of jingoistic protectionism.

Thanks,

Gary Morris  
Morris & Kamlay LLP  
1150 18th Street, NW  
Suite 575  
Washington, DC 20036  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** <Evans>, "Jack (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** Gary Morris <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

---

**From:** Gary Morris [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](#)]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

Jack, please do not pass this amendment. It's pure protectionism. DC cabs can be filthy, slow and often refuse to pick up passengers at Union Station after hours. The public interest should come before the interest of the taxi companies, especially when they serve us so poorly so often.

Passing this amendment would be an embarrassment to the District of Columbia.

Yours,

Gary Morris  
Morris & Kamlay LLP

1150 18th Street, NW  
Suite 575  
Washington, DC 20036  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** <Travis>, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Reply-To:** "Travis, Uber CEO" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Monday, July 9, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Morris <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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**From:** [Jeff Standish](#)  
**To:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:51:10 AM

---

Hi Rob,

I imagine you are familiar with the below bill, that is apparently being voted on today by DC City Council.

I forwarded this same email to Councilmember Bowser yesterday afternoon, but did not get a response, so I am seeking information from you. Is this vote indeed happening today? If so, what is Councilmember Bowser's position on this bill?

It would be ashame to drive healthy competition out of DC, as Uber offers RELIABLE, modernized, clean, safe, and convenient service to DC and particularly to Ward 4 (where taxi services are minimal at best).

There are many citizens in Ward 4 and around DC (including myself) that oppose this bill.

I look forward to learning of Councilmember Bowser's position and your thoughts on the bill.

Thanks,

Jeff Standish

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Jeff Standish <[REDACTED]>

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- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).



---

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182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Manuel Cosme](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Travis, Uber CEO](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:13:57 AM

---

Dear members of the DC City Council,

I received the following email yesterday, regarding the fees charged by Uber (the private car service). In accordance with the email, I urge the Council to NOT pass the amendment which would disallow Uber to utilize an all-hybrid fleet and consequently lower its fees. As a regular user of the Uber service, and a small business owner here in the District, this would significantly reduce my cost of doing business. Please do not pass the amendment today. Thank you.

- Manuel Cosme, Ward 2

---

Manuel "Manny" Cosme  
CFO Services Group  
  
[www.cfoservicesgroup.com](http://www.cfoservicesgroup.com)  
Twitter: @CFOServicesGrou

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM, Travis, Uber CEO < wrote:

### Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#)
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
  
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
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[@Uber\\_DC](#)

**From:** [Newman, Andrew \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:15:07 PM

---

Hi Kevin,

[REDACTED]

Thanks,  
Drew

---

From: Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53 PM  
To: Newman, Andrew (Council)  
Subject: FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

FYI from UBER – [REDACTED] ?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Travis, Uber CEO <[\[REDACTED\]@uber.com](#)>  
Date: Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
Subject: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
To: Kevin Stogner <[\[REDACTED\]@dc.gov](#)>

Un-Independence

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- \* Phil Mendelson (Chairman), (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8064>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])
- \* Mary Cheh, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-8062>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @marycheh<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=5fcc10f993&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Michael Brown, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-8105>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
@cmmichaelabrown<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=2fb9f188fb&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Jim Graham, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-8181>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @jimgrahamward1<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=d8c6dd0648&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-8058>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @jackevansward2<<http://uber.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=a744cc810c&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8052>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @murielbowser<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=808933a461&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8028>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @kenyanmcduffie<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=276f8de88f&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-8072>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @tommywells<<http://uber.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=53ad59ca98&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8068>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @cmyma<<http://uber.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=af5f72fb0a&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Marion Barry, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8045>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @marionbarryjr<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=5912a4debf&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] tel:%28202%29%20724-7772>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @cataniapress<<http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=d4fd7d525e&e=3e68d581e4>>
- \* Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] el:%28202%29%20724-8174>,  
[REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @vincentorangedc<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=142e82cd5e&e=3e68d581e4>>

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[u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=1052ddac3b&e=3e68d581e4](http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/profile?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=1052ddac3b&e=3e68d581e4)>  
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[u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=acc77ad2b2&e=3e68d581e4](http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=acc77ad2b2&e=3e68d581e4)>

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[http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?](http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=8e61f1c37e&e=3e68d581e4)  
[u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=8e61f1c37e&e=3e68d581e4](http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=8e61f1c37e&e=3e68d581e4)>

**From:** [Kass, Jonathon \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:54:06 PM

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Travis, Uber CEO  
[<mailto:supportdc=uber.com@mail291.us3.mcdlv.net><<mailto:uber.com@mail291.us3.mcdlv.net>>] On  
Behalf Of Travis, Uber CEO  
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 4:43 PM  
To:  
Subject: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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@marychoh<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=5fcc10f993&e=018c22a7b6>>
- \* Michael Brown, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
@cmmichaelabrown<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=2fb9f188fb&e=018c22a7b6>>
- \* Jim Graham, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
@jimgrahamward1<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=d8c6dd0648&e=018c22a7b6>>
- \* Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
@jackevansward2<<http://uber.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=a744cc810c&e=018c22a7b6>>
- \* Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
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- \* Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @kenyanmcduffie<<http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=276f8de88f&e=018c22a7b6>>
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- \* Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) @cmyma<<http://uber.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=af5f72fb0a&e=018c22a7b6>>
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- \* David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])  
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u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=1052ddac3b&e=018c22a7b6](http://uber.us1.list-manage2.com/profile?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=1052ddac3b&e=018c22a7b6)>

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[[http://d1a3f4spazzrp4.cloudfront.net/car\\_types\\_email/email\\_twitter.png](http://d1a3f4spazzrp4.cloudfront.net/car_types_email/email_twitter.png)]  
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u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=8e61f1c37e&e=018c22a7b6](http://uber.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8d2fd6968b2b5c64d0d22dba2&id=8e61f1c37e&e=018c22a7b6)>

**From:** [Brian Flores](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Reynolds, Wilson \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:04:13 PM

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Chairman Mendelson and Councilman Graham,

As a resident of Ward 1 and a 5-year resident of the District, I'm appalled at the lengths to which the government of the District of Columbia and its Taxicab Commission have gone to make business untenable for Uber. For a world-class city, we have a third-rate taxi fleet. Instead of innovating in the face of competition and embracing change to provide a better service, our taxi drivers are often rude, unprofessional, and prone to flouting the rules when they know there are no taxi inspectors on duty. They drive cars that are often in poor repair, are dirty and/or malodorous, and they spend entire trips talking on the telephone instead of responding to their customers' questions and requests. Drivers are often aggressive and unpleasant towards pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists, and complaints to the city and the taxicab commission enter a black hole from which no accountability escapes.

Our city council, like our taxicab commission, is another part of the sad punchline to the joke that is DC's quest for greater self-governance. Let's not forget that the corruption that enveloped the commission touched the office of Councilman Graham in the person of his former Chief of Staff, Ted Loza. Righting the ship will require incremental improvements to our city government and its many agencies, and will require embracing change in the form of new opportunities. DC's taxi cabs are a miserable experience for many who ride them, and eliminating new transit alternatives is not the way to improve the standing of our city. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,  
Brian Flores  
Resident, Ward 1

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:40:52 PM EDT  
**To:** Brian Flores <[REDACTED]>  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

### Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

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alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



---

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Richard W. Stites](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:20:43 PM

---

Dear Council Members:

I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment, as described below. I think DC needs more choices and Uber is healthy competition for what I understand to be a small group of people who control the taxis in DC. The technology that Uber employs, for one thing, is clearly the future. If DC wants to keep up with major cities transportation systems, it should welcome this development as opposed to shutting it down to protect vested interests.

Richard Stites  
Tilden St. NW  
Washington, DC

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**From:** [Chris Green](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:04:56 PM

---

Honorable Council Members,

DC resident here, Ward 6. If this is true and the Council intends to vote on regulation which stifles choice and innovation, I would suggest using your vote against such policy. While I commend the Council and the taxi commission for recent moves to modernize and improve our taxi fleet, I believe these moves should not be at the expense of alternatives such as Uber which offer either vastly superior service quality or a type of service not available in our taxi fleet. Let me give you an example:

One service Uber provides which is vastly superior to our taxi fleet is reliable on-call pickups. Calling for a taxi pickup in DC is at best a roll of the dice. Living in a quieter Ward like 6, it's often extremely difficult to find a taxi off-hours. A reliable on-call service is invaluable to our community when public transportation has shut down and a resident needs a red-eye ride to the airport or has a non-life threatening medical emergency. The alternative is calling a taxi which may not show up (the penalties of which are difficult to enforce and pointless in the moment) and if they do, it's often an hour wait with no confirmation of the arrival time. This is one example of how Uber has directly and positively affected my life as a resident of DC. Reliable pickups, 24 hours a day, with less than 10 minute waits and instant location updates.

Aside from the myriad enhancements a service like this provides the residents of DC, consider the impact of blocking a lower cost (and more energy efficient) choice from our lower income residents. My example shows how these residents would be positively affected directly in their neighborhoods -- I believe magnitudes more than the wealthy residents of our city. Many of them haven't had the opportunity to experience the positive effects a service like this provides because of the cost and this action would artificially deny these residents and further perpetuate the social gap which divides our city.

In closing, I would encourage you to look beyond the visions of snooty 20-somethings climbing into a town car for a night on the town. Instead focus on the improvements that choice, innovation, and higher quality service a business like Uber provides and is intending to provide all residents of our city. Other cities have grown to work together with their taxi community and services like Uber, finding a way to fairly sustain both business models. Surely DC can do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Green  
5th Street SE

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Chris Green <[REDACTED]>

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

**From:** [Becky Lea](#)  
**To:** [Reynolds, Wilson \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:46 PM

---

What?!?! Nooooo!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:40:52 PM EDT  
**To:** Rebecca Lea <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Annika Toenniessen](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:45 PM

---

Dear Members of the DC Council,

Please do not let this happen. Uber is a respectable company and is only gaining traction in DC because the service received from our taxi fleet is so poor. Not to mention, Uber serves areas of the city where taxis are not readily available and Uber provides much more prompt service when called (or used through online apps). I am a life-long resident of Washington, currently living in Columbia Heights (for nearly 8 years), and have really appreciated all the improvements this city has seen over the last several years. I would hate for Uber to be denied this same opportunity.

Best regards,

Annika Toenniessen

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Annika Toenniessen <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Sam Brownell](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32:23 PM

---

I am against the price floor being implemented against Uber. They offer a great service and want to reduce costs. Don't prop up taxi services if they can't compete with a better run company.

**From:** [Wynn, Monique \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Tolliver, Denise \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:29 PM

---

*Monique V. Wynn, Executive Assistant  
Office of Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: [REDACTED] fax: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]*

---

**From:** Michelle Busch [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Wynn, Monique (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

FYI....Although I know you know this already! :)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Michelle Busch <[REDACTED]>

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--

Michelle L. Busch

**From:** [Wynn, Monique \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** ["Michelle Busch"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:04 PM

---

Thanks! We're getting calls out the ying yang!

*Monique V. Wynn, Executive Assistant  
Office of Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: [REDACTED] fax: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]*

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**To:** Michelle Busch <[REDACTED]>

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO



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Michelle L. Busch

**From:** [Ken Lopez](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:01 PM

---

Hi Michael,

Hope you are well.

I'm not a voter in DC, but I do spend a lot of money there. I use Uber and think it is a great resource. My 2 cents, support them.

See you at a Widener event soon - you missed my great speech at the Supreme Court induction.

Ken

**A2L Consulting Logo**

**Kenneth J. Lopez**  
Founder & CEO



T [REDACTED] x101 M [REDACTED]

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**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Ken Lopez <[lopez@a2lc.com](mailto:lopez@a2lc.com)>

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**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:27 PM

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**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** andrew livick <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:41 PM

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Angie Montes](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:44 PM

---

Tommy,  
I love Uber and can't see why you wouldn't support their ability to charge less for using a hybrid. Can you please tell me where you are on this issue?

Thanks,  
Angie Truesdale  
1019 Florida Ave NE (where it can be very difficult to get a cab)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:50:45 PM EDT  
**To:** Angie Truesdale <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Mark Pilotti](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:33 PM

---

I do not understand why the City Council is standing in the way of a lower cost alternative to the DC taxi fleet. Please allow Uber to continue to operate in the District and allow them to offer a lower cost option (UberX). During these times of economic uncertainty, I don't understand why the council wouldn't support a cheaper transportation alternative. Please do the right thing.

Thanks,  
Mark Pilotti

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** MARK PILOTTI <[REDACTED]>

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182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Mark Pilotti](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:36 PM

---

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**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** MARK PILOTTI <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Graig Norden](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Travis, Uber CEO](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:22 PM

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This is an outrage and you all should be ashamed of yourselves. When did central planning become part and parcel with free enterprise? Which lobbyists on K St. are stuffing your pockets to protect the cabs? To support this bill is to support a regressive tax and I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I VOTE.

Thanks for a great product, Travis!!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM, Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

Graig



(cell)  
(office)

**From:** [Mark Pilotti](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:46 PM

---

Mr Brown,

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Thanks,  
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**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** MARK PILOTTI <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Erika Young](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:42 PM

---

Good afternoon gentlemen, I'm an Uber user in DC and I would hope that the DC City Council wouldn't be picking a side in this disagreement b/t a for-profit sedan service and the for profit DC cab service. Personally, I think Uber is good competition for the DC cabs given the number of negative experiences i have had with the DC cab drivers, both personally and professionally. I welcome an alternative, I hope the DC City Council stays out of this fight.

I both live and work in the District.

Sincerely,  
Erika Young

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Erika Young <[REDACTED]>

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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Erika L. Young  
[@erikalyoung](#)

**From:** [Jonathan McKernan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:07 PM

---

Approve this proposal, and I promise you that I'll figure out which of you represents my ward (16th & Riggs NW) and vote against you. This city has real problems. Worry about those!

Jonathan

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Jonathan McKernan <[REDACTED]>

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- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*





**From:** [Erika Young](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:40 PM

---

Good afternoon Councilman Wells, I'm an Uber user in DC and I would hope that the DC City Council wouldn't be picking a side in this disagreement b/t a for-profit sedan service and the for profit DC cab service. Personally, I think Uber is good competition for the DC cabs given the number of negative experiences i have had with them, both personally and professionally. I welcome an alternative, I hope the DC City Council stays out of this fight.

I am a constituent and I live at 4th and D SE.

Sincerely,  
Erika Young

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Erika Young <[REDACTED]>

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Erika L. Young  
[@erikalyoung](#)

**From:** [Tim Chapman](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:57 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

I support the sentiments expressed in the email below and request that you work to strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I find it unconscionable that our representatives would pass legislation that deprives us of our right to choice and competition in the marketplace. Choice and competition produce better products and services for the citizens of the District of Columbia. DC consumers should have the freedom to decide where to put their hard-earned dollars. It is never right to set price floors that limit choice and undermine markets, but especially in a terrible economy where people are working paycheck to paycheck just to get by, it seems particularly egregious, out of touch and unfair.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Chapman  
[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20002

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Tim Chapman <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Vivian](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:01 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment. For years, DC residents and tourists alike have suffered from consistently bad and unreliable service from DC taxis. They are an unprofessional lot that are an embarrassment to this city. Finally a service comes along that offers quality and reliability and DC council votes to strike it down?! Shame on you. How long will you prop up that dysfunctional agency called the DC Taxicab Commission. Bring this city to the 21st century, let Uber give us rides!!!

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Travis, Uber CEO" <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Vivian Vasallo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2012 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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**From:** [Jason Styn](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:58 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Really?

Regards,  
Jason Styn

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Travis, Uber CEO" <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Jason Styn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2012 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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**From:** [Eli Center](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:55 PM

---

Dear Councilmembers Mendelson, Cheh, Brown, and Graham:

Having lived and taken taxis in DC for 10 years, I am very familiar with the issues at play. I can see no public benefit that would arise from punishing Uber - and its riders, of which I am one - to support the very same industry that fought so hard to protect the inherently broken and unfair zone system. Where the current taxi system in DC is notoriously unreliable and, in my experience, completely unresponsive to consumer complaints, Uber's service is the epitome of professionalism.

In this voter's opinion, DC taxis need -more- competition, not less; I urge each of you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Eli Center  
[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Eli Center <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Eugene Poverni](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]  
[Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:06 PM

---

Why has the city council decided to protect the D.C. cab industry at the cost of D.C. residents?

If UBER can deliver better service at a lower cost, why have you decided to artificially propping up the cab industry?

Why should I be forced to call a cab operator and wait on hold for 10 minutes, have to spent 5 minutes explain where I am and then hope the cab arrives and isn't in poor condition?

Uber has figured out a much more effective business model and they will end up employing the very same labor force ultimately.

Yes this is not good in the short term for cab drivers. But airplane travel was not good for train travel either, it doesn't translate to grounding the airline industry.

Please let the market runs its course. Put your constituents first and don't try to pick "winners and losers".

-Eugene Poverni  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Eugene Poverni <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Gary Morris](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:06 PM

---

Michael, please do not pass this amendment. It's pure protectionism. DC cabs can be filthy, slow and often refuse to pick up passengers at Union Station after hours. The public interest should come before the interest of the taxi companies, especially when they serve us so poorly so often.

Passing this amendment would be an embarrassment to the District of Columbia.

Yours,

Gary Morris  
Morris & Kamlay LLP  
1150 18th Street, NW  
Suite 575  
Washington, DC 20036  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** <Travis>, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Reply-To:** "Travis, Uber CEO" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Monday, July 9, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Morris <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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Sincerely,

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

**From:** [Tracy Schmalzer](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:17 PM

---

Please do not vote in favor of this provision.

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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@Uber\_DC

**From:** [Pesante, Kiara \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Lopez, Anthony \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [Ansberry, Jennifer \(Council\)](#); [Catalino, Anthony \(Council\)](#); [Benjamin, Aukima \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Smith, Dee \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Newman, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Willingham, Jonathan \(Council\)](#); [Hubbard, Judy \(Council\)](#); [Mudd, Jeremy \(Council\)](#); [Orlins, Matthew \(Council\)](#); [Handsfield, William \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:12 PM

---

I was just going to forward this to you all.

Her Twitter mentions in the last three minutes have included about 40 tweets from different people on this topic.

Kiara Pesante  
Communications Director,  
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh  
[REDACTED] (o)  
[REDACTED] (c)  
[www.marycheh.com](http://www.marycheh.com)

---

**From:** Lopez, Anthony (Council)  
**To:** 'Gabe Stutman' ; 'Margaret Nettesheim' ; Ansberry, Jennifer (Council); Catalino, Anthony (Council); Benjamin, Aukima (COUNCIL); Smith, Dee (COUNCIL); Newman, Andrew (Council); Willingham, Jonathan (Council); Hubbard, Judy (Council); Pesante, Kiara (Council); Lopez, Anthony (Council); Mudd, Jeremy (Council); Orlins, Matthew (Council); Handsfield, William (Council)  
**Sent:** Mon Jul 09 16:52:03 2012  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

All,

**FYI! This just came through. These people are calling to express their opposition. Please just take their information and say you will share those concerns with the councilmember.**

Thanks,

Anthony

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Kristen Lingley <[REDACTED]>

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Sincerely,

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**From:** [Ben Marzouk](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:38 PM

---

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the bill tomorrow. This is an absurd exercise in protecting the taxi industry (ie - the people the line your pockets!!). Voters will recognize this shallow political move for what it is. Uber offers an excellent, first-rate service. Start working to protect unique upstarts like Uber, and stop shielding the marketplace from balanced competition!

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Ben Marzouk <[REDACTED]>

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---

--

Ben Marzouk

**From:** [Michelle Busch](#)  
**To:** [Wynn, Monique \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:36 PM

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FYI....Although I know you know this already! :)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Michelle Busch <[REDACTED]>

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Michelle L. Busch

**From:** [Raymond Sass](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:53 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I hope that there is more to this issue than expressed by Uber. As someone who has lived in ward 6 for 7 years now, I can tell you that the taxi service in this area is anything but reliable. Having a reasonably-priced service help address the market failures in taxi dispatching is a boon to the area. I hope that you will vote against any imposition of a mandated floor in taxi prices. That's not good for citizens in our area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Raymond Sass  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Raymond Sass <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Scott Boos](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:16 PM

---

OUTRAGE. Get out of the way and let DC residents enjoy the benefits of low cost transportation and technology. I'll be watching to see how you vote. Please allow Uber to lower it's rates!

--

Scott Boos  
[REDACTED]  
WDC, 20001  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Scott Boos <[REDACTED]>

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- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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**From:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:56:59 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Kevin Stogner <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Bellanca, Amy \(Council\)](#); [Boardman-Schroyer, Kilin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:47 PM

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**From:** Chris C-G [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

seriously?

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**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Chris Colihan-Grillo <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Chris C-G](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:54:17 PM

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seriously?

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**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:42 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Chris Colihan-Grillo <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Newman, Andrew \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53:35 PM

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FYI from UBER – [REDACTED] ?

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Kevin Stogner <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Lopez, Anthony \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** ["Gabe Stutman"](#); ["Margaret Nettesheim"](#); [Ansberry, Jennifer \(Council\)](#); [Catalino, Anthony \(Council\)](#); [Benjamin, Aukima \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Smith, Dee \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Newman, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Willingham, Jonathan \(Council\)](#); [Hubbard, Judy \(Council\)](#); [Pesante, Kiara \(Council\)](#); [Lopez, Anthony \(Council\)](#); [Mudd, Jeremy \(Council\)](#); [Orlins, Matthew \(Council\)](#); [Handsfield, William \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:52:03 PM  
**Importance:** High

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All,

**FYI! This just came through. These people are calling to express their opposition. Please just take their information and say you will share those concerns with the councilmember.**

Thanks,

Anthony

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Kristen Lingley <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** [Anne Phelps](#)  
**To:** [Kass, Jonathon \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:58 PM

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???

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**From:** Travis, Uber CEO [mailto:supportdc=[uber.com@mail291.us3.mcdlv.net](mailto:uber.com@mail291.us3.mcdlv.net)] **On Behalf Of** Travis, Uber CEO  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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**From:** [Kevin Stogner](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:53 PM

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**To:** Kevin Stogner <[REDACTED]>

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- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
  
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
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- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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San Francisco, CA 94105

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**From:** [Kuwana, Eric A.](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:51 PM

---

Michael,

I hope this email finds you well. I hope you will consider supporting Uber and other transportation providers who are working hard to fill a much needed area between taxis and expensive car services/limos with flexible, reasonably priced and easy to schedule service. I think this is one of those examples where competition is good, and where innovative technology linked to our mobile devices can make our lives easier.

Take care,

**ERIC A. KUWANA**

Partner

**Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP**

2900 K Street, NW, Suite 200 / Washington, DC 20007-5118

p / [REDACTED] c / [REDACTED] f / [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] / [www.kattenlaw.com](http://www.kattenlaw.com)

---

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO [mailto:supportdc=uber.com@mail291.us3.mcdlv.net] **On Behalf Of** Travis, Uber CEO

**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:43 PM

**To:** Kuwana, Eric A.

**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

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=====

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=====

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Lane Hudson](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Tommy Wells](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:49:00 PM

---

Phil, Michael, Jim, Jack, Mary, Muriel, Vince, Tommy, Yvette, & David:

I know the politics of the cab system here has been complex. But I hope you will allow this competition to enter the market in a fair way. I support many of the reforms recently passed, but the only way our cab system is going to become friendlier and more efficient is to have more competition.

In addition, our city should be excited to have a fleet of inexpensive hybrid cabs. This is a step in the right direction for everyone except the incumbent cab system.

Please do the right thing here

Many thanks,  
Lane

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Lane Hudson <[REDACTED]>

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*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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Lane Hudson  
skype: tlanehudson  
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[www.linkedin.com/in/lanehudson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lanehudson)

**From:** [Rob Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:45:52 PM

---

Councilman,

I hope you do not vote for this. Über is a very good service. Competition can only improve the quality of taxi service in the district.

Rob Schwartz  
400 Block of Kentucky Ave SE

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 4:40:52 PM EDT  
**To:** Robert Schwartz <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** **Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates**  
**Reply-To:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>

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*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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**From:** [Shira](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT! Please strike down the Über amendment!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:15 PM

---

Hello,

I am a student at American University and I use über--the 21st century cab service--constantly. I use it because it is safe, incredibly fast and user friendly. As much as I love D.C., I absolutely hate our taxi service--it's never on time, the individual companies are unbelievably unreliable, and they don't even take credit cards! PLUS, they're obscenely expensive. Whether the citizens of the D.C./metro area like it or not, students make up a large part of our cities population, and many of us do not have cars. To take away a new safe, reliable, and cost-effective means of transportation would only benefit the cab services and no one else. It's undemocratic and wrong. Please vote against the uber amendment--having the new uberX will benefit everyone, including you.

Strike the amendment! Vote for Über.

Shira Karsen



**From:** [Kristin Alderman](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: DC Council Vote on Uber Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:01:48 AM

---

Dear City Council Member:

Tomorrow is a chance to show you stand for creative innovation by standing with Uber and not for taxi interests who, at a minimum, do not want to compete with and match the exemplary service that Uber provides, and at a maximum are just plain greedy.

I use both taxis and Ubers depending on the situation - they each have their place - and I can't support an industry monopoly just because taxi interests are behind the curve and a step behind Uber. If they want, they can sign up to work with Taximagic and have many of the same features Uber provides. In addition, Uber provides a quality service that is often lacking with DC taxis that are often poorly maintained cabs whose drivers are talking on their cell phones (usually not even hands-free per DC law) and often not knowing where to go. Healthy competition is beneficial to the free-market place and restraints should not be put in place that eliminates that dynamic.

PLEASE take a stand against greed and for a helpful, innovative service that is Uber and vote against the Uber amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [Julie Maggioncalda](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent: Please do not pass the Uber amendment...  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:52:54 PM

---

Councilmember,

We should demand that the taxi companies reach the reliable, high-quality level of service that Uber provides, not thwart the competition and creativity of a successful transportation provider (one of the few reliable ones in the city, at that!). Please do not let this issue get thrown in with other taxi considerations and give it the proper consideration it deserves through its own examination. This last-minute, poorly-researched plan does not little more than reward a population of cab drivers and owners who consistently fail to provide reliable, efficient and effective service. They should rise to Uber's level of customer care, not the other way around.

I'll be happy to discuss this with you further if you have any additional questions.

I'm hoping you see the political underpinnings of this last-minute addition.

Sincerely,

Julie

--

Julie Maggioncalda, MSW, LGSW

Ward 6 Resident

 (Mobile)

**From:** [Matt Rosenthal](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT--STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FROM THE UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:27:24 PM

---

While the taxi lobby is undoubtedly strong and the importance of tax revenue generated from cabs cannot be dismissed, forcing Uber out of the area by enforcing minimums is bad business and terrible for your constituents. Regulated environments have their place, but use common sense when a business is trying to provide comparable (better) service at a lower price.

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

**From:** [Matt Greenberg](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT--STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FROM THE UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:00:15 PM

---

While the taxi lobby is undoubtedly strong and the importance of tax revenue generated from cabs cannot be dismissed, forcing Uber out of the area by enforcing minimums is bad business and terrible for your constituents. Regulated environments have their place, but use common sense when a business is trying to provide comparable (better) service at a lower price.

Your constituents voted you in; and we'll vote you out if you listen to powerful lobby instead of us. Other than you Councilman Barry; you are untouchable.

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

**From:** [Joe Garecht](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Views on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:33:04 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

**Please. Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.** It's important to keep free enterprise flowing in DC.

Joe Gatrecht

**From:** [Paul Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Vote "NO" on minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:48:52 PM

---

Dear Council Members,

As a voting, taxpaying homeowner resident of the 100 block of P Street NW, I write today urging you to reject the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment, which would prevent Uber cars from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.

Neither my wife nor I own a car and love living in downtown DC precisely because we don't have to own a car. Nevertheless, we have long been frustrated by the difficulty--bordering on impossibility--of arranging taxi pick-up in our neighborhood.

We've been using Uber for several months and love it. Unlike DC taxis, which often don't answer their phones and even when they answer and agree to pick us up, sometimes don't show up, Uber cars are completely reliable, safe and clean transportation options. It's not surprising that DC's taxi industry would do everything in its power to retain its near-monopoly over this sector of the transportation industry without having to actually provide quality service on a competitive playing field.

The only slight drawback to Uber is that it's a bit more expensive than other options.

But now that Uber is working to lower its rates--DC government is standing in the way. Don't be an obstacle to affordable alternative transportation in the District.

Vote no on the Uber price floor. Thank you. Sincerely,

--

Paul Seamus Ryan

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Kimberly Williamson](#)  
**Subject:** Vote "No" on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:37:23 PM

---

I'm writing to respectfully request that you vote No on Tuesday's amendment to the Taxi Bill that would prevent Uber and other similar services from operating in DC. These are popular with your young, educated and ambitious constituents, and this amendment has us talking about the Council for the first time since I moved here 2 years ago. We take taxis too, but there are times when we prefer the ease and comfort of a hired car that can quickly (and assuredly) pick us up exactly when and where we want, and take us exactly where we want. This amendment would functionally prevent DC residents from enjoying the same services already used in many other major cities. I recognize the Council is also working with the Taxi Commission to improve Taxi service in DC, but these are fundamentally different services; crippling one will do little to help the other.

Moreover (and more importantly), the process by which this amendment was introduced and hurried through the Council serves to further heighten your young constituents' disillusionment with the Government of the District. After many recent scandals, many due to nepotism, privilege and outright corruption, we would prefer that the Council not rush to pass laws designed solely to protect a favored interest group. If such an bill, especially one that would prevent a dynamic and exciting tech company from operating in our city, could stand on its own merits, there would surely have been no reason to introduce it during the week of Independence Day and rush it through.

I don't know your position on the bill, but I hope you will vote to defeat this amendment. Even if you do support preventing Uber from operating in the District, I would hope you agree that this is no way for a democratic body to function.

Best,  
Kimberly Williamson

**From:** [Ryan Sylvester](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Affecting Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32:01 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I'm a new resident in your ward. I am very concerned about the action affecting Uber's rates. I have only used their service a few times because their rates are so high as it is. But I find their reliability and convenience superb especially since it is extremely difficult to get a cab where I live. I am hoping their fares could be lower not stuck artificially higher than other taxi services.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sylvester

Washington, DC 20003

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Moirá O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Aga  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:18:59 AM

---

Mr. Wells:

I urge you to support my rights to participate in a competitive free market by voting against the proposed "Uber Amendment" today. A vote to mandate price minimums hurts not only my rights as a consumer, but also the opportunities for small businesses and modern economies to develop within the city. Please consider the significant impact a supporting vote would have on this city and remember the importance of improving job opportunities especially in the current market.

Thank you and please remember this when you cast your vote today.

Moirá O'Connor  
Ward 3 Resident

**From:** [Erik Moe](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against Minimum Fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:00:20 PM

---

Honorable Council Member Catania -- As a resident of DC and an occasional user of Uber, I urge you to vote against the "minimum fare" language in the taxi modernization bill that would make it impossible for Uber to offer low-cost hybrid car service in the District. Uber just launched this concept in San Francisco and NYC [as described in the New York Times last week](#). The convenience would be a great addition to DC transportation options.

Sincerely,

Erik Moe

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Michelle Stein](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** vote against minimum fare language from Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:52:35 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown - I can't even begin to imagine what our country would be like without an open, competitive marketplace. The taxi industry in this city has already held a vital transportation service for residents and visitors alike hostage resulting in outrageously high fares. Enough! I implore you to vote against any minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Fair competition will vastly improve the quality of transportation services in our nation's capital. Thanks in advance, Michelle Stein

**From:** [David](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against minimum fare language in taxi modernization bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:25 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

As a resident of Ward 6, I urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the taxi modernization bill specifically in the Uber Amendments.

I thank you for your consideration.

David Gins

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20024

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Michelle Stein](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** vote against minimum fare language in Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:00:57 PM

---

Dear Mr. Catania - I can't even begin to imagine what our country would be like without an open, competitive marketplace. The taxi industry in this city has already held a vital transportation service for residents and visitors alike hostage resulting in outrageously high fares. Enough! I implore you to vote against any minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Fair competition will vastly improve the quality of transportation services in our nation's capital. Thanks in advance, Michelle Stein

**From:** [Michelle Stein](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** vote against minimum fare language in Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:59:21 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells - I can't even begin to imagine what our country would be like without an open, competitive marketplace. The taxi industry in this city has already held a vital transportation service for residents and visitors alike hostage resulting in outrageously high fares. Enough! I implore you to vote against any minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Fair competition will vastly improve the quality of transportation services in our nation's capital. Thanks in advance, Michelle Stein

**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:31 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

I oppose adoption of any such amendment, and I'll consider your vote on it as my own personal "key vote" in the next round of elections.

It seems to me unfair and frankly undemocratic for elected representatives to take action against an innovative new company in order to buttress an incumbent industry that has proved itself hostile to innovation, and that has a record of poor service, price-gouging and general customer dissatisfaction.

I know that the Council is considering legislation to overhaul the city's taxicabs, elements of which are opposed by the industry. In general, I support that legislation, though I'm not thrilled about a 50-cent surcharge on top of large rate increases already adopted this year. But I see no reason why the council should discourage the efforts of Uber or other free-market innovators as it goes about trying to forcibly modernize the hidebound taxicab industry.

Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne



**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:00:29 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

I oppose adoption of any such amendment, and I'll consider your vote on it as my own personal "key vote" in the next round of elections.

It seems to me unfair and frankly undemocratic for elected representatives to take action against an innovative new company in order to buttress an incumbent industry that has proved itself hostile to innovation, and that has a record of poor service, price-gouging and general customer dissatisfaction.

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Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne





**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:00:09 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

I oppose adoption of any such amendment, and I'll consider your vote on it as my own personal "key vote" in the next round of elections.

It seems to me unfair and frankly undemocratic for elected representatives to take action against an innovative new company in order to buttress an incumbent industry that has proved itself hostile to innovation, and that has a record of poor service, price-gouging and general customer dissatisfaction.

I know that the Council is considering legislation to overhaul the city's taxicabs, elements of which are opposed by the industry. In general, I support that legislation, though I'm not thrilled about a 50-cent surcharge on top of large rate increases already adopted this year. But I see no reason why the council should discourage the efforts of Uber or other free-market innovators as it goes about trying to forcibly modernize the hidebound taxicab industry.

Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne



**From:** [Fisher, Kevin](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST the Minimum Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:30:44 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Mr. Wells:

As a resident in your district, I am urging you to vote against the Minimum Fare amendment today. Please allow the market to determine the fare for alternative means of transport to taxi's, such as the Uber service and their new low fare option. I have to take a cab home all the time and it is draining my resources immensely.

Thank you,

Kevin

Kevin Fisher  
Qaurles Street, NE  
WDC, 20019

NOTICE: This email and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient, please do not read, distribute, or take action in reliance upon this message. If you have received this in error, please notify me immediately by return email and promptly delete this message and its attachments from your computer.

**From:** [David](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53:07 PM

---

Councilman Brown,

As a resident of Ward 6, I urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the taxi modernization bill specifically in the Uber Amendments.

I thank you for your consideration.

David Gins

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20024

[REDACTED]

**From:** [David](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:51:46 PM

---

Councilman Catania,

As a resident of Ward 6, I urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the taxi modernization bill specifically in the Uber Amendments.

I thank you for your consideration.

David Gins

— [REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20024  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ian Rice](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the MINIMUM price for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:36:19 PM

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Michael,

**I am writing to implore you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. This is a ridiculous affront on innovation and entrepreneurship that must not stand. Forcing the up and company out is not only wrong, it's cowardly.**

**Are you in favor of innovation or incumbents?**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Best,**

**Ian Rice**

**From:** [Moirá O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:29:52 AM

---

Mr. Catania,

I urge you to support my rights to participate in a competitive free market by voting against the proposed "Uber Amendment" today. A vote to mandate price minimums hurts not only my rights as a consumer, but also the opportunities for small businesses and modern economies to develop within the city. Please consider the significant impact a supporting vote would have on this city and remember the importance of improving job opportunities especially in the current market.

Thank you and please remember this when you cast your vote today.

Moirá O'Connor  
Ward 3 Resident

**From:** [Moirá O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:10:42 AM

---

Mr. Brown

I urge you to support my rights to participate in a competitive free market by voting **against** the proposed "Uber Amendment" today. A vote to mandate price minimums hurts not only my rights as a consumer, but also the opportunities for small businesses and modern economies to develop within the city. Please consider the significant impact a supporting vote would have on this city and remember the importance of improving job opportunities especially in the current market.

Thank you and please remember this when you cast your vote today.

Moirá O'Connor  
Ward 3 Resident

**From:** [J.C.](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:07:29 PM

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As a resident of Ward 1 and of the District as a whole, I strongly urge each of you to vote against the Uber amendment, which would unfairly punish a company that is filling a huge gap that DC cabs have created. My experience with DC cabs has largely been negative. Cab drivers frequently refuse fares based on distance contrary to existing regulations. Their complete lack of service, poor quality equipment and frequent attempts to overcharge, forces customers to look for viable alternatives. Uber provides a quality service at a competitive price. Maybe a little competition is what DC cabs need to get their act together and start providing a better quality product for the people they serve.

I urge you to vote against this amendment and allow DC residents to decide what service they want to choose to meet their transportation needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Jack Van Cleve  
Ward 1 Resident.



**From:** [Colleen Vivori](#)  
**To:** [Colleen Vivori](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:09:39 PM

---

Dear City Council Member:

Tomorrow is a chance to show you stand for creative innovation by standing with Uber and not for taxi interests who, at a minimum, do not want to compete with and match the exemplary service that Uber provides, and at a maximum are just plain greedy.

I use both taxis and Ubers depending on the situation - they each have their place - and I can't support an industry monopoly just because taxi interests are behind the curve and a step behind Uber. If they want, they can sign up to work with Taximagic and have many of the same features Uber provides. In addition, Uber provides a quality service that is often lacking with DC taxis that are often poorly maintained cabs whose drivers are talking on their cell phones (usually not even hands-free per DC law) and often not knowing where to go. Healthy competition is beneficial to the free-market place and restraints should not be put in place that eliminates that dynamic.

PLEASE take a stand against greed and for a helpful, innovative service that is Uber and vote against the Uber amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen

**From:** [Blake Adami](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against the Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:09 PM

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Councilman Wells-

I would like to write to you to urge you to vote AGAINST the Uber amendment you will be voting on this week. As a DC resident, I have come to appreciate the reliability, convenience, and cleanliness that Uber Cab offers DC citizens. It does not make sense that the council would vote against offering DC residents an alternative to using high-priced cabs in the District, which are often extremely unreliable, expensive, and can be downright disgusting. I cannot tell you how many times I have called for a DC cab and they would not show up either because they did not want to pick me up from the area I was in or because they were "not available". To be standing outside in extreme temperatures and not know where my cab is, is frankly unacceptable. I feel like the District is influenced so much by the DC Taxicab Commission and at the expense of citizens. I do not understand why the council would vote to impose a minimum cab fare which is so much more than a DC taxi minimum fare. Uber has phenomenal customer service, comes quickly, treats customers with respect and no-nonsense, and offers an alternative to having to pay for cabs on the spot, which many DC cab drivers require the use of cash. I don't carry cash on me, and having to constantly take money out of the ATM and incurring fees on top of that adds to the cost of my cab fares.

For the sake of DC residents, please consider voting AGAINST the Uber amendment. Please vote on behalf of DC commuters who use Uber Cab as an alternative to DC Taxicabs. DC residents expect good service and fair prices, and Uber Cab has outperformed DC Taxicabs in every way possible in those regards.

Respectfully yours,

Blake Adami  
Resident, Ward 6.



**From:** [Darryl Madden](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:03 PM

---

I live and vote in ward 3

Darryl Madden  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Darryl Madden](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:01 PM

---

Darryl Madden  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Darryl Madden](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against the uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:24 PM

---

I live and vote ward 6

Darryl Madden  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ken Wingert](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote against uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:46:31 AM

---

Mr Wells -

I do not think the city should stifle competition an innovation. I hope you will reject attempts by the council to shut down Über. As a Ward 6 constituent who is hoping you'll run for mayor I will be paying close attention to your vote. Don't be in the pocket of the taxi drivers like our corrupt current mayor.

Ken Wingert  


**From:** [Nick Shockey](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:05:07 PM

---

Dear David Catania,

As someone who uses taxis on a weekly basis, I'm deeply concerned about tomorrow's DC Council vote on the "Uber amendment," and ***strongly*** urge you to oppose any language that would impose a minimum fare on firms like Uber. I firmly believe DC residents need more competition in the taxi industry, not less, and your position on tomorrow's vote will significantly impact my support for your campaign in the next DC Council election. Of the many areas under the Council's control, your position on this issue is one of the most important to me.

I'll be very interested to see the outcome of tomorrow's vote and your position on the Uber amendment.

Best,

Nick Shockey



Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Nick Shockey](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:03:45 PM

---

Dear Michael Brown,

As someone who uses taxis on a weekly basis, I'm deeply concerned about tomorrow's DC Council vote on the "Uber amendment," and ***strongly*** urge you to oppose any language that would impose a minimum fare on firms like Uber. I firmly believe DC residents need more competition in the taxi industry, not less, and your position on tomorrow's vote will significantly impact my support for your campaign in the next DC Council election. Of the many areas under the Council's control, your position on this issue is one of the most important to me.

I'll be very interested to see the outcome of tomorrow's vote and your position on the Uber amendment.

Best,

Nick Shockey



Washington, DC 20002



**From:** [Nick Shockey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:02:20 PM

---

Dear Tommy Wells,

As someone who uses taxis on a weekly basis, I'm deeply concerned about tomorrow's DC Council vote on the "Uber amendment," and ***strongly*** urge you to oppose any language that would impose a minimum fare on firms like Uber. I firmly believe DC residents need more competition in the taxi industry, not less, and your position on tomorrow's vote will significantly impact my support for your campaign in the next DC Council election. Of the many areas under the Council's control, your position on this issue is one of the most important to me.

I'll be very interested to see the outcome of tomorrow's vote and your position on the "Uber amendment."

Best,

Nick Shockey



Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Ryan Rhodes](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:55:00 PM

---

Dear Mr. Catania -

I use the high quality sedan service, Uber, frequently and prefer it over the antiquated and inefficient DC taxicab industry. Uber provides a reliable, clean and safe environment at low-cost. DC cab drivers are hostile, drive erratically and provide an unsafe environment for their riders.

I urge that you **vote against** the Uber Amendment on Tuesday, specifically the section that requires a minimum fare that is no less than five times a taxi's minimum fare. This amendment clearly favors the taxi cab industry which is trying to protect its poor quality and embarrassing service in this city.

A low-cost alternative to DC taxis is much needed. Please do not let their interests go above the interests of the DC consumer and voter.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Rhodes



Apt A  
Washington DC 20009

**From:** [Ryan Rhodes](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:46:37 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells -

I use the high quality sedan service, Uber, frequently and prefer it over the antiquated and inefficient DC taxicab industry. Uber provides a reliable, clean and safe environment at low-cost. DC cab drivers are hostile, drive erratically and provide an unsafe environment for their riders.

I urge that you **vote against** the Uber Amendment on Tuesday, specifically the section that requires a minimum fare that is no less than five times a taxi's minimum fare. This amendment clearly favors the taxi cab industry which is trying to protect its poor quality and embarrassing service in this city.

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Sincerely,  
Ryan Rhodes



Apt A  
Washington DC 20009

**From:** [Ryan Rhodes](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:41:25 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown -

I use the high quality sedan service, Uber, frequently and prefer it over the antiquated and inefficient DC taxicab industry. Uber provides a reliable, clean and safe environment at low-cost. DC cab drivers are hostile, drive erratically and provide an unsafe environment for their riders.

I urge that you **vote against** the Uber Amendment on Tuesday, specifically the section that requires a minimum fare that is no less than five times a taxi's minimum fare. This amendment clearly favors the taxi cab industry which is trying to protect its poor quality and embarrassing service in this city.

A low-cost alternative to DC taxis is much needed. Please do not let their interests go above the interests of the DC consumer and voter.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Rhodes



Apt A  
Washington DC 20009

**From:** [Anthony Donatelli](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST über amendments  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:07:39 PM

---

Hi tommy,

I voted for you in the last election, I a recently received an email regarding a piece of code being rammed through the DC council to ban Über from offering a competitive service to DC taxis.

I am completely appalled that an organization that is so demonstrably corrupt is strong arming an excellent service. DC taxis rarely come to my neighborhood, and über has been a literal lifeline for me to get home. DC cabs are generally filthy, and manned by rude entitled drivers. I've never once had a rude experience in an uber and find it mind boggling that a modern on-demand service that serves everyone is being trampled by a group of bandits who constantly talk on their cell phones.

Your vote to ban uber's future service would be a disservice to Washington, DC. Vote against it! Make DC cabs work for their money, and give them some healthy competition.

Best regards,  
Tony

Sent from my iPhone.

**From:** [James Andrew Scott](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote Down Amendment to Set 5x Sedan Mininums  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:49:42 PM

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The Honorable David Catania:

I am writing to strongly object to a proposed DC Council Amendment that would set a price floor of 5 times the the drop rate for taxi cabs in this city, ostensibly for the purpose "of ensur[ing] that sedan service..."does not directly compete or undercut taxicab service." This proposed legislation favors only the taxicab industry at the expense of the public. Why would the DC Council impose a price floor, from which the public can pay no less?! I vehemently oppose this attempt to force the the Uber private sedan company from competing for business in this city. It's one of the best services that has come along in awhile, and gives citizens a viable alternative to the cab industry. As you are certainly aware, the DC Cab Commission already imposed a significant fare increase just this year. Competition favors the public at large.

I strongly urge you to vote down this amendment entirely and/or to strike section 8(c).

James Vatne

Washington, DC

**From:** [Dave Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote gainst Sedan minimum fares (Section 8C)  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:52:20 PM

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Mr. Catania,

I strongly urge you to strike down the upcoming ammendment to enforce a minimum fare on sedans operating in the city. I am a resident of Ward 3, and a small business owner of a software agency located at 16th and K and headquartered in the district. I am a strong user of a variety of sedan services in the district including Carey, Uber and a private driver. Forcing the increase in rates to 5x the cab fare would make continuing to live in the District very difficut for me. I travel 90% and need dependable and predictable transit to our local airports and train stations. Our cab system in the District is neither dependable or predictable.

- In 3 years of calling taxis for trasport of myself and my customers no taxi has ever arrived. Honestly. Never.

- When you are able to flag a taxi they do NOT want to go to any airport because then they must return empty. I have had numerous taxis I have flagged refuse service for an airport trip

- Being unable to pay by credit card makes accounting and expenses difficult if not possible, meaning it costs me more to live in the District when forced to use cabs

I am a resident, a successful business man who pays significant taxes and who employs a significant number of employees in the District. Please do not undo services like private sedans and Uber who make living and running a business in the District not only possible but preferable by forcing an unfair pricing scheme on them. The real solution is fixing our out of date and poorly delivered cab services.

David Wolf  
Resdent Ward 3

**From:** [Michelle Grifka](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** VOTE NO -- UBER Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53:54 PM

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STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE.

Please and thanks,  
Michelle Grifka





**From:** [Charlie Stern](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Amendment to Prevent Uber From Lowering Rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:31 PM

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Dear Councilmember Wells,

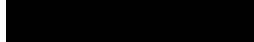
I understand that tomorrow, the DC Council is voting on an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would prevent the Uber car service from lowering its current rates and to set minimum fares for the service.

As a Capitol Hill homeowner, my wife and I urge you and your colleagues to vote against the amendment to intervene in Uber's service charges. As you know, taxi service in the city can be extremely limited, especially for those of us who do not live on or near major thoroughfares (such as the majority of Capitol Hill). Unfortunately, when we have obtained cab service from licensed cab drivers over the years, we have found many of them to be dishonest and unreliable and, on occasion, even unsafe. On the other hand, the Uber drivers we have interacted with since the service's initiation have been professional, friendly, organized, and extremely reliable. In their short time operating in DC, they have come to represent a compelling alternative from the status quo. In short, we view the Uber service as an extremely promising innovation that bodes well for the future of the District, and would like to see them grow and expand without interference by the taxi cab commission and/or the Council. For most other cities, this has been the case, and we hope that DC will follow suit.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Charlie Stern and Emily Holcombe



**From:** [Brian Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on amendment to taxi modernization bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:53 PM

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Dear members fo the DC City Counsel,

It has come to my attention that the DC City Counsel is intending to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for the company Uber to lower its prices or offer a low cost service in any form to DC residents in order to prevent the creation of a viable alternative to taxis in DC. I am absolutely appauled to hear of this development. This amendment would require Uber's minimum fare to be no less than 5x a taxi's minimum fare in DC.

For the life of me I can't understand why the DC Counsel would chose to so disadvantage consumers especially during such hard economic times. As a Ward 2 resident, I plan to watch this issue closely. I will actively support any counsel member who votes against this ridiculous amendment and actively work against any counsel member who votes to support taxi cab drivers over consumers.

Do the right the thing and vote AGAINST this amendment!!!  
Brian

**From:** [Kelsay, Brendan](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on legislation to undermine competition to taxis - support Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:54:26 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am a constituent of Ward 2 and I have heard that either today or this fall there is to be a vote on a taxi modernization bill tomorrow and one part of this will undermine the viability of the Uber sedan service. I strongly oppose undermining the Uber service.

I have been using Uber for the past month or so and it is an amazing service. It is a little more expensive than taxies but you can order it to your exact location and they are timely and use clean vehicles. While I still use regular taxies much of the time there are definitely instances when you are not near a major thoroughfare or for other reasons ordering a taxi is a better option. Unfortunately getting a regular DC taxi to show up at a particular spot in a reasonable amount of time is at best a risky proposition.

Here are two examples of how this service helps me. Recently I was on Capitol Hill at the restaurant Tunnickliffs and it was raining and I have a broken toe. I could walk to Pennsylvania Avenue and hope to get a cab or order one from Uber and have it show up right at the restaurant. I took the latter option and it was there in 10 minutes. Also, during the time I have had my broken toe I have sometimes needed to get a cab to work in the morning or to doctor's appointments from my house; I live at 1124 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Well when I call a taxi the drivers often don't show up because my ride is too short if I am going to the office at 8<sup>th</sup> and G, NW but Uber always shows up.

I urge you to oppose any legislation, regulations, or other moves by the Council or the Mayor's office that would undermine the viability of this competitive service.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Brendan Kelsay



Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Tony Altimore](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on minimum fare amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:06 PM

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David,

Hello. I am one of your DC voters, and I am outraged to hear that our DC City Council is about to further coddle our absurdly corrupt taxicab industry.

Please vote NO on the minimum fare amendment.

The taxicabs in DC remain a disgusting embarrassment to our city. The drivers routinely lie and cheat passengers, and are far more concerned with screaming into their mobile phones than providing safe, reliable, pleasant transportation. As recently highlighted by the Economist, DC is one of the greatest cities in the world to live in. Sadly, the taxi service resembles the third world far more than it befits a great city. A quick look at taxis in Philly, New York, Chicago, or even Nashville shows what a mess the taxis are in DC.

For this reason, services such as Uber, Car2Go, Zipcar and other alternatives to the taxicabs are essential for pushing the awful DC taxis to either improve themselves or be replaced with better service providers. I am horrified to hear that you would consider an amendment that would prevent Uber or other services from providing quality service at reasonable prices, especially given the nightmarish state of our DC taxis.

The corruption history between local government and the taxi industry in DC is legendary. As a taxpayer and voter, I find it outrageous that you would even consider yet another piece of legislation that coddles this corrupt embarrassment of an industry that helps keep DC from being the world class city that we know it can be. As a politician, I am disgusted that you would continue to support businesses that have been engaged in such rampant corruption with your colleagues.

Please vote NO on the minimum fare amendment.

...those of us voters and taxpayers will remember these issues when we support and vote for city council members.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Altimore  
Ward 2 Resident

**From:** [Tony Altimore](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on minimum fare amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:25 PM

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Mr. Brown,

Hello. I am one of your DC voters, and I am outraged to hear that our DC City Council is about to further coddle our absurdly corrupt taxicab industry.

Please vote NO on the minimum fare amendment.

The taxicabs in DC remain a disgusting embarrassment to our city. The drivers routinely lie and cheat passengers, and are far more concerned with screaming into their mobile phones than providing safe, reliable, pleasant transportation. As recently highlighted by the Economist, DC is one of the greatest cities in the world to live in. Sadly, the taxi service resembles the third world far more than it befits a great city. A quick look at taxis in Philly, New York, Chicago, or even Nashville shows what a mess the taxis are in DC.

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The corruption history between local government and the taxi industry in DC is legendary. As a taxpayer and voter, I find it outrageous that you would even consider yet another piece of legislation that coddles this corrupt embarrassment of an industry that helps keep DC from being the world class city that we know it can be. As a politician, I am disgusted that you would continue to support businesses that have been engaged in such rampant corruption with your colleagues.

Please vote NO on the minimum fare amendment.

...those of us voters and taxpayers will remember these issues when we support and vote for city council members.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Altimore  
Ward 2 Resident

**From:** [Jason Rosenbaum](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on minimum fare language in the "Uber amendment"  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:01:28 AM

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Councilmembers,

I'm writing to ask you to vote no on the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment. I'm all for a fair and regulated taxi commission, but even the name of this amendment proves it is aimed at a particular threatening competitor and isn't a fair rule-of-the-road type legislation. Ubers should be allowed to compete with DC taxis -- they serve different markets and Ubers make up for the clear failings of DC's taxis (service to non-northwest areas, service to VA and MD, service on call in a reasonable amount of time).

Please vote no on this obviously corrupt amendment.

--Jason Rosenbaum



**From:** [Eric Everhart](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on Minimum fare language in Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:15 PM

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Gentlemen, please vote no on the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment when it comes before the Council tomorrow! DC cabs have provided horrible service and cars to DC residents and visitors alike for far too long. The recent fare changes were supposed to usher in an era of better service, but even now the cab industry is trying to stall and kill any efforts to improve service to correspond with the higher fares.

Uber has thus far provided a viable alternative to those willing to pay a premium for cab service, effectively serving a higher-end niche in the taxi market. The current language under consideration by the council would prevent the same increases in level of service and customer satisfaction from being achieved for a much broader swath of the DC community. By creating an artificially high floor for rates Uber can charge, the Council would be pre-empting the introduction of a lower cost, eco-friendly/hybrid fleet of on-demand cars (the recently debuted UberX program) that would be available at lower rates than the current fleet of black cars, and thus viable for a much broader socioeconomic class of DC residents and visitors.

Not only would minimum fare language directly targeting Uber be blatantly anti-competitive, it would also continue the long history of DC Government protection for an industry that has fought tooth and nail against entering the twenty-first century. DC residents who want to take a cab should never have to explain where Union Station, or other major landmarks are to a cabbie (something I have personally had to do on more than one occasion). Nor should they be forced to ride in vehicles that often seem like rolling death traps.

Competition in the cab/car-hire industry will benefit all DC residents. As such, I urge you to please, **please vote against** the discriminatory and short-sighted **Minimum Fare Language in the Uber Amendment**.

Respectfully,  
Eric B Everhart



#4

Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Patrick Orth](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote "No" on Minimum Fare Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:06 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I am a constituent of yours, living at the Jefferson at Capitol Yards at 70 I Street SE. It has come to my attention that you may be voting on an amendment to the taxi modernization law that would set a minimum price that services like Uber could charge. As you know, it is often times very hard, if not impossible, to hail a cab at the Navy Yard if there is not a baseball game being played. My roommates and I have come to rely on Uber as a reliable service to get around the city in a clean and safe environment. If this amendment comes up for a vote before you I trust that you will oppose it and let the free market decide what is an appropriate rate for a transportation service to charge and not the DC City Council. I look forward to your opposition to this amendment and your reply to this email.

Best regards,

Patrick Orth

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20003



**From:** [Joshua Culling](#)  
**To:** [Joshua Culling](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on minimum fares for Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:57:19 PM

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Dear Councilmember:

I am writing in opposition to proposed language that will set an artificial price floor on Uber fares in DC. As a Ward 5 resident with limited access to taxi cabs from my home, Uber has been a godsend on occasions where we need transportation to the airport, downtown or other areas of the city.

I ask that you reject more government intervention into this marketplace, which is in dire need of more competition, not less. The only interests served by an arbitrary price floor are entrenched taxi cab interests, while taxpaying citizens of the District will be made worse off.

Again, please vote NO on the price floor for Uber.

Respectfully,  
Josh Culling  
Trinidad

**From:** [Brian Racilla](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on sedan minimum fare bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:58:10 AM

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Dear Councilmember Brown:

I am a resident of Ward 1 (Wallach Place NW) and I am writing to ask you to vote to strike down the minimum fare bill tomorrow. I am a frequent metro and taxi patron (both DC and Virginia), but I have also used the transportation services offered by Uber. I appreciate having an economical option to request a vehicle in real time and have them show up -- which is a serious problem when requesting a taxi (esp. from DC). I expect you and the rest of the city council to vote in the best interest of DC residents and provide us with quality services. In short, many of the taxi drivers and the taxicab lobby are not delivering. By passing the bill, especially with any minimum fare that is a multiple of the current taxicab rate, you and the city council are only exacerbating the downward spiral of the DC taxi service by endorsing their poor service record and preventing outside influences (i.e., competition) from encouraging the improvements that the taxicab lobby could not (and would not) make on their own. While I can see an argument holding an outside vendor's (such as Uber's) fares to be the same as those for taxicabs, there is no justification to require them to be much higher. I appreciate your service and will be watching the result of this vote.

Regards,  
Brian Racilla

**From:** [Brian Racilla](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on sedan minimum fare bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:56:21 AM

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Dear Councilmember Catania:

I am a resident of Ward 1 (Wallach Place NW) and I am writing to ask you to vote to strike down the minimum fare bill tomorrow. I am a frequent metro and taxi patron (both DC and Virginia), but I have also used the transportation services offered by Uber. I appreciate having an economical option to request a vehicle in real time and have them show up -- which is a serious problem when requesting a taxi (esp. from DC). I expect you and the rest of the city council to vote in the best interest of DC residents and provide us with quality services. In short, many of the taxi drivers and the taxicab lobby are not delivering. By passing the bill, especially with any minimum fare that is a multiple of the current taxicab rate, you and the city council are only exacerbating the downward spiral of the DC taxi service by endorsing their poor service record and preventing outside influences (i.e., competition) from encouraging the improvements that the taxicab lobby could not (and would not) make on their own. While I can see an argument holding an outside vendor's (such as Uber's) fares to be the same as those for taxicabs, there is no justification to require them to be much higher. I appreciate your service and will be watching the result of this vote.

Regards,  
Brian Racilla

**From:** [Ben Woodruff](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Sedan-Class Price Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:08 PM

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Council Members,

I am deeply disturbed by the pending "Uber Amendment" that you will be voting on tomorrow and I urge you to vote against it. The legislation is damaging to DC citizens, which is readily apparent by the explicit protectionism built into the legislation. Ensuring that sedan-class services have a "substantially higher cost" in no way guarantees that they will be a "premium class of service," it only ensures that DC residents will have to pay higher fares. I encourage the council to ensure that these services remain at the highest quality, but the current, proposed language can only be interpreted as a handout to taxicab operators. Taxicabs in DC have a pitiful performance record and requiring them to engage in some competition would benefit all DC citizens as well as its myriad visitors. Therefore, I urge you to vote against this amendment; DC citizens are in desperate need of more reliable and affordable transportation options, not fewer. Please vote for the interests of your constituency, not the taxicab operators.

Sincerely,  
Ben Woodruff  
U Street Corridor Resident

**From:** [John David Hooker](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:36:37 PM

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Dear Councilman Brown,

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to Bill 19-630 - the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012.

I am sure you are aware of the complaints about the taxicab service in DC: don't take credit cards; cars in terrible condition; drivers refusing to take riders to their destination; no printed receipts; etc.

While there are many good taxicab drivers in the district, it is clear that the taxi service in Washington, DC is substandard as compared to other major cities. In fact, it is substandard to neighboring cities such as Arlington.

This is where Uber is most welcome! You get a receipt emailed to you. The cars are nice and in good working order. They are equipped with GPS, so the drivers know where to go. There's no need to exchange cash, as they already have a credit card on file. They are confident enough in their service that you can rate each driver - and they've always been friendly. They take you to whatever destination you want without hassle. Finally, they are able to provide these services at a reasonable cost!

This is what private sector innovation will get us. However, Bill 19-630 attempts to squash it. These aren't my words. In fact, they are in the bill where it states the rationale for charging **5 times** the minimum rate of a taxicab:

"These requirements would ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service with a substantially higher cost that does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service."

I don't fully understand this sentence...or its reasoning.

"...ensure that sedan service is a premium class of service..." - why can't consumers be the judge of that?

"...with a substantially higher cost.." - how does charging 5 times the minimum rate of taxi ensure that it remains a premium class of service? Is this saying that only people who can afford the proposed increased rates should enjoy premium class service?

"...that does not directly compete or undercut taxicab service." - Why do people need to be protected from competition? What sense does it make to protect the current substandard taxicab service?

I am a middle class taxpayer who does not have a vehicle. I suspect most people who use the Uber service are middle class taxpayers as well. I still use taxicabs, and will continue to do so. However, taxicabs are not always available in all locations or all hours - or the weather is not always conducive to standing outside to hail a cab (the phone system for taxis takes too long). The Uber service has vastly improved my level of enjoyment in traveling in DC. It is nice not always having to wonder or worry about whether I will get a taxi when I need one.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your service and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this subject, specifically regarding the questions I posed.

Thank you,

John Hooker

Ward 6

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John David Hooker

**From:** [John David Hooker](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:33:11 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to Bill 19-630 - the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012.

I am sure you are aware of the complaints about the taxicab service in DC: don't take credit cards; cars in terrible condition; drivers refusing to take riders to their destination; no printed receipts; etc.

While there are many good taxicab drivers in the district, it is clear that the taxi service in Washington, DC is substandard as compared to other major cities. In fact, it is substandard to neighboring cities such as Arlington.

This is where Uber is most welcome! You get a receipt emailed to you. The cars are nice and in good working order. They are equipped with GPS, so the drivers know where to go. There's no need to exchange cash, as they already have a credit card on file. They are confident enough in their service that you can rate each driver - and they've always been friendly. They take you to whatever destination you want without hassle. Finally, they are able to provide these services at a reasonable cost!

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"...that does not directly compete or undercut taxicab service." - Why do people need to be protected from competition? What sense does it make to protect the current substandard taxicab service?

I am a middle class taxpayer who does not have a vehicle. I suspect most people who use the Uber service are middle class taxpayers as well. I still use taxicabs, and will continue to do so. However, taxicabs are not always available in all locations or all hours - or the weather is not always conducive to standing outside to hail a cab (the phone system for taxis takes too long). The Uber service has vastly improved my level of enjoyment in traveling in DC. It is nice not always having to wonder or worry about whether I will get a taxi when I need one.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your service and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this subject, specifically regarding the questions I posed.

Thank you,

John Hooker

Ward 6

--

John David Hooker



**From:** [John David Hooker](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012.  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:31:14 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to Bill 19-630 - the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012.

I am sure you are aware of the complaints about the taxicab service in DC: don't take credit cards; cars in terrible condition; drivers refusing to take riders to their destination; no printed receipts; etc.

While there are many good taxicab drivers in the district, it is clear that the taxi service in Washington, DC is substandard as compared to other major cities. In fact, it is substandard to neighboring cities such as Arlington.

This is where Uber is most welcome! You get a receipt emailed to you. The cars are nice and in good working order. They are equipped with GPS, so the drivers know where to go. There's no need to exchange cash, as they already have a credit card on file. They are confident enough in their service that you can rate each driver - and they've always been friendly. They take you to whatever destination you want without hassle. Finally, they are able to provide these services at a reasonable cost!

This is what private sector innovation will get us. However, Bill 19-630 attempts to squash it. These aren't my words. In fact, they are in the bill where it states the rationale for charging **5 times** the minimum rate of a taxicab:

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"...that does not directly compete or undercut taxicab service." - Why do people need to be protected from competition? What sense does it make to protect the current substandard taxicab service?

I am a middle class taxpayer who does not have a vehicle. I suspect most people who use the Uber service are middle class taxpayers as well. I still use taxicabs, and will continue to do so. However, taxicabs are not always available in all locations or all hours - or the weather is not always conducive to standing outside to hail a cab (the phone system for taxis takes too long). The Uber service has vastly improved my level of enjoyment in traveling in DC. It is nice not always having to wonder or worry about whether I will get a taxi when I need one.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your service and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this subject, specifically regarding the questions I posed.

Thank you,

John Hooker

Ward 6

**From:** [Kristen Barkley](#)  
**To:** [Mendikson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Koryan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:01:05 AM

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Please vote NO to the "Uber Amendment". This amendment is seen by your constituents as nothing better than a gift to the taxi cab industry in order to thwart competition for an industry that provides terrible service to this city. I have experienced sexist and homophobic remarks from cab drivers about people passing by, political rants, unsafe driving, deplorable levels of cab cleanliness. If there is an alternative, it is unconscionable that the DC council should try to make that alternative inaccessible to the people of this city by instituting a rule that stops Uber from providing services they would otherwise be able to provide, and which they are providing to the people of so many other major cities. The Government of any jurisdiction should represent the people and not the industries that lobby the hardest. The Government's role is to protect the people from monopolies - not impose monopolies through arbitrary price floors. It is not going without notice in my demographic of young professionals, who own property, and go out to restaurants, bars, and stores throughout DC, that what the Council would do with this amendment is nothing less than a blatant attempt to stop competition with the taxi cab industry. It is seen that the taxi cab industry cannot stand on its own merits, and instead of investing resources in improving service, it has put those resources into buying protectionism from DC politicians. My husband and I own a rowhouse in Petworth, and we know how difficult it is to call a cab to pick us up. We have waited for over an hour, or for cabs that never showed up. Uber allows us to get where we are going. When I get in the Uber car it is clean, safe, and the driver is respectful. We are not rich, but we have made the decision that Uber is the best option for us to get from our house to a bar or a restaurant. Please don't put your efforts into making such a great service inaccessible to us, and to the people in this city. Options like Uber make it more attractive for people like me and other young professionals, who take advantage of all the city has to offer, to move from places like Columbia Heights to neighborhoods like Petworth. Please save the reputation of the DC Council and show that Council members work for DC residents and are not in the pockets of a few of DC's notorious special interests. Vote to allow Uber to help provide DC residents with the quality of living that DC deserves.

Thank you,  
Ward 4

**From:** [Mike O'Neill](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:40:36 PM

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Councilperson Wells,

I work in your district and utilize the uber service cars regularly.

I option of utilize a hybrid uber car would greatly benefit the air quality of DC.

The DC cab companies neglect the environment with their dated fleet of cabs.

Either defeat this amendment or demand the current DC cab companies have their fleets entirely hybrid.

Regards,  
Mike O'Neill

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Miya Rahamim](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:45:26 PM

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The minimum fare and fare-fixing language in the Uber amendment should not be passed. If the city council votes for this protectionist bill that has no justification at all in terms of benefits to DC residents (other than cab drivers), it would be clear that the city council has been captured by the cab industry, and unable to adequately regulate it. If DC council members fail to protect the interests of their constituents and instead act to create a monopoly for a regulated industry, they should no longer be voted into office.

I had previously been hesitant to visit friends who live in Petworth because there are no empty cabs in the area to flag down when you want to leave, and when you call for a cab, they say it'll be 15 minutes and then never show up. I've waited over an hour for a cab multiple times and had to find an alternative way to get home because the cab never showed up. Friends who live in Petworth have often had cab drivers refuse to take them home because they didn't want to drive to Petworth (as it might be harder to find a return fare). Uber fills in the holes in the existing taxi cab service. Cabs don't want to go to Petworth and are completely unreliable. Previously, I just avoided visiting friends there because there was no safe, reliable way to get home at night. Now, the only way I know I won't be stranded there is because of Uber.

Please don't turn our transportation service into a complete monopoly just because someone else in the market is willing to provide reliable service. Uber drivers service areas that taxi drivers refuse to, pick you up when they say they will, don't refuse to turn on the air conditioning on a hot day, and don't take the longest route possible to increase the fare. If cab drivers don't like that they are losing business, they can improve their service. That's how the market works. Unless, of course, the elected officials are improperly influenced to make decisions against the interests of their constituents.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Miya Rahamim,

DC resident who takes cabs where available, and Uber where cabs are not available

**From:** [Miya Rahamim](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:58 PM

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The minimum fare and fare-fixing language in the Uber amendment should not be passed. If the city council votes for this protectionist bill that has no justification at all in terms of benefits to DC residents (other than cab drivers), it would be clear that the city council has been captured by the cab industry, and unable to adequately regulate it. If DC council members fail to protect the interests of their constituents and instead act to create a monopoly for a regulated industry, they should no longer be voted into office.

I had previously been hesitant to visit friends who live in Petworth because there are no empty cabs in the area to flag down when you want to leave, and when you call for a cab, they say it'll be 15 minutes and then never show up. I've waited over an hour for a cab multiple times and had to find an alternative way to get home because the cab never showed up. Friends who live in Petworth have often had cab drivers refuse to take them home because they didn't want to drive to Petworth (as it might be harder to find a return fare). Uber fills in the holes in the existing taxi cab service. Cabs don't want to go to Petworth and are completely unreliable. Previously, I just avoided visiting friends there because there was no safe, reliable way to get home at night. Now, the only way I know I won't be stranded there is because of Uber.

Please don't turn our transportation service into a complete monopoly just because someone else in the market is willing to provide reliable service. Uber drivers service areas that taxi drivers refuse to, pick you up when they say they will, don't refuse to turn on the air conditioning on a hot day, and don't take the longest route possible to increase the fare. If cab drivers don't like that they are losing business, they can improve their service. That's how the market works. Unless, of course, the elected officials are improperly influenced to make decisions against the interests of their constituents. I sincerely hope that that is not the case.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Miya Rahamim,

DC resident who takes cabs where available, and Uber where cabs are not available

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Miya Rahamim](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:44:46 PM

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The minimum fare and fare-fixing language in the Uber amendment should not be passed. If the city council votes for this protectionist bill that has no justification at all in terms of benefits to DC residents (other than cab drivers), it would be clear that the city council has been captured by the cab industry, and unable to adequately regulate it. If DC council members fail to protect the interests of their constituents and instead act to create a monopoly for a regulated industry, they should no longer be voted into office.

I had previously been hesitant to visit friends who live in Petworth because there are no empty cabs in the area to flag down when you want to leave, and when you call for a cab, they say it'll be 15 minutes and then never show up. I've waited over an hour for a cab multiple times and had to find an alternative way to get home because the cab never showed up. Friends who live in Petworth have often had cab drivers refuse to take them home because they didn't want to drive to Petworth (as it might be harder to find a return fare). Uber fills in the holes in the existing taxi cab service. Cabs don't want to go to Petworth and are completely unreliable. Previously, I just avoided visiting friends there because there was no safe, reliable way to get home at night. Now, the only way I know I won't be stranded there is because of Uber.

Please don't turn our transportation service into a complete monopoly just because someone else in the market is willing to provide reliable service. Uber drivers service areas that taxi drivers refuse to, pick you up when they say they will, don't refuse to turn on the air conditioning on a hot day, and don't take the longest route possible to increase the fare. If cab drivers don't like that they are losing business, they can improve their service. That's how the market works. Unless, of course, the elected officials are improperly influenced to make decisions against the interests of their constituents.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Miya Rahamim,

DC resident who takes cabs where available, and Uber where cabs are not available

**From:** [Kristine Belisle](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** vote no on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:49 PM

---

Dear Council Member,

Once again I'm disappointed to be writing you, but it seems "taxation without representation" has new meaning as DC council members continue to consider resolutions that completely disregard the residents of DC. I am very disappointed to hear that an amendment has been brought forth that will fight the option for DC residents to have a less expensive mode of transportation with Uber because you favor taxi's. First of all, taxi's in DC have taken advantage of the residents and visitors to this town for years and I cannot believe that the Council continues to protect them the way you do. We took one giant step forward when you finally mandated that they use meters. However, we're not taking another step back if you vote for the Uber amendment. It is appalling that members who are elected by the people are considering this amendment; I don't understand when the Council started working for the businesses of DC and decided to completely disregard the residents and tourists; the former pay your salaries and the latter support this city.

Uber is providing an alternative cheaper option that should be available to those who choose to use it. Please vote against this amendment that prevents them from engaging in fair competition with taxi's.

By the way, I use taxi's more than I use Uber and that choice should be mine, not yours.

Thank you.  
Kris Belisle

[REDACTED]  
DC, 20009



**From:** [Wes McClelland](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:46 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

As a resident of Ward 6, I urge you to strike the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. I understand that it may be seen as a compromise to allow Uber to still operate but not be able to launch a new low-cost service, but doing so goes against the principle of free market competition and allowing different companies compete to provide the best services at the best price. And, other than protecting the current cab companies from having to spend money to upgrade their fleets, to provide better training and logistical support, and more or less to adapt to a changing marketplace; I don't see the value in trying to keep the status quo.

Moreover, large parts of Ward 6 are not in highly trafficked cab areas and cab company responsiveness to requests in our area are spotty at best. Uber has made it easier for me to navigate the city.

Please don't stop a company that is trying to be innovative and providing a superior product at a lower price.

Thank you,

Wes McClelland  
1700 block of Bay Street SE

**From:** [Elizabeth Brotherton-Bunch](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendment!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:15 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

I am a resident of Ward 1 and a regular user of public transit such as Metro and Metrobus, city taxi cabs and the Uber service. I rarely use the car my husband and I own, and choose to instead travel using the many transportation options available in the District to get around town. (I have yet to brave the bike share service, but applaud those who do!)

I'm writing because I am concerned about the so-called "Uber Amendment," which I understand would prevent Uber from bringing its UberX service to the District. The UberX service sounds like it would be wonderful for city residents, allowing us to use the Uber app to call and use an environmentally-friendly hybrid vehicle at an affordable cost. It would be a shame to prevent this great service from coming to the District.

It appears that this is being done to protect the cab industry here, which is well known for lagging behind other major metropolitan cities in quality. That is just a shame. Competition can only be good for city residents and the city's overall development. Uber is seeking to offer a customer-friendly transportation option that is also environmentally friendly. It would be a huge step forward for the city.

Please vote NO on the Uber amendment!

Elizabeth

--

Elizabeth Brotherton-Bunch



**From:** [Elizabeth Brotherton-Bunch](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendment!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:43 PM

---

Mr. Brown,

I am a resident of Ward 1 and a regular user of public transit such as Metro and Metrobus, city taxi cabs and the Uber service. I rarely use the car my husband and I own, and choose to instead travel using the many transportation options available in the District to get around town. (I have yet to brave the bike share service, but applaud those who do!)

I'm writing because I am concerned about the so-called "Uber Amendment," which I understand would prevent Uber from bringing its UberX service to the District. The UberX service sounds like it would be wonderful for city residents, allowing us to use the Uber app to call and use an environmentally-friendly hybrid vehicle at an affordable cost. It would be a shame to prevent this great service from coming to the District.

It appears that this is being done to protect the cab industry here, which is well known for lagging behind other major metropolitan cities in quality. That is just a shame. Competition can only be good for city residents and the city's overall development. Uber is seeking to offer a customer-friendly transportation option that is also environmentally friendly. It would be a huge step forward for the city.

Please vote NO on the Uber amendment!

Elizabeth

--

Elizabeth Brotherton-Bunch



**From:** [Doug Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:09:36 AM

---

Dear Councilman Catania: please **vote no the Uber amendments** and reject old school DC politics as usual. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Doug Schwartz

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20002

**From:** [Doug Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:07:32 AM

---

Dear Councilman Wells: as I resident of Capitol Hill, I urge you to **vote no the Uber amendments** and reject old school DC politics as usual. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Doug Schwartz

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20002

**From:** [Doug Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Uber Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:58:41 AM

---

Dear Councilman Brown: please **vote no the Uber amendments** and reject old school DC politics as usual. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doug Schwartz

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20002

**From:** [Chris Long](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No On Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:14:59 AM

---

As a frequently disgruntled DC taxi rider and DC voter I'd like to voice my opposition to Uber Amendment. It seems as though we should let the market attempt to deliver a satisfactory taxi experience to DC residents and visitors, something regulation has failed repeatedly to do. If any regulation is necessary at most it should level the playing field by simply requiring Uber to shoulder the same regulatory encumbrances as DC cabs.

Regards,

Chris Long

**From:** [Jeff Blum](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:25:34 PM

---

Councilman Catania,

As a longtime DC resident and small business owner, I urge you to vote NO on the Uber amendment.

Uber is already providing a superior service in the city and is poised to launch an even more innovative, clean, and efficient transportation system.

The DC taxi cabs have long been an embarrassment to this world-class city. It would be a real shame to enact legislation that restricts commerce and innovation only to appease a long-corrupt and decrepit DC taxi system.

Washington, DC should be a city that embraces innovation and competition, not one that holds back progress.

Please vote NO on the Uber amendment!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Blum  
Ward 2 resident and local business owner



**From:** [Ashley Hoy](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:43 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania:

I'm writing today to respectfully request that you oppose the minimum fare Uber amendment tomorrow. Uber has been a welcomed addition to the city's transportation needs and only enhances competition among services which is extremely beneficial to the consumer. To be sure, I continue to utilize taxicabs much more frequently than Uber services -- especially during the work week -- but adamantly wish to continue to have as many choices as possible in transportation services.

Additionally, I feel it is extremely unfair for the government to mandate a minimum price on a business that must be 5 times more than the drop rate of its competitor. When a marketplace is working well, as it is in this case, government intervention is unnecessary and will only lead to a stifling of competition.

Thank you for your consideration.

E. Ashley Hoy

[REDACTED]

Apt. 4

Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Cindy Boyd](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Uber amendment!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:36:55 PM

---

Dear Concilmember Wells:

As a resident of Ward 6 I would like to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. I implore you to vote no on this measure that appears to be a direct attack on a service the public wants. The council is looking at ways to encourage residents and visitors to use alternative forms of transportation. This action would directly undercut that action.

Thank you,

Cynthia Boyd

20003

**From:** [Matt Turley](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on Uber Cab Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:40 PM

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council,

I am writing to express my frustration and shock of hearing that there is currently an amendment that will limit transportation options in a city like ours where the public transportation options are so very problematic. I am a 3-year resident of Ward 5, living in the Brookland area. Since moving here in 2009, one of our biggest hassles has been the availability, or lack there of, and the horrible reliability of DC's Taxi system. Fearing from robberies, the out of the way nature of the location, and other factors, cab drivers simply do not respond to our requests. Even when scheduling cabs for air travel, the cabs often do not show up. Several times, I have had to drive to the airport and pay the outrageous parking fees because my scheduled cab did not arrive.

Since Uber was released in DC, these problems were eliminated. I've used the service about 10 times now, and every time I have a cab at my house within 15 minutes - normally much faster. This service has alleviated a huge headache for us, and I am very upset to learn that pending legislation would all but cripple the service, requiring there minimum fare to be ridiculously more expensive than a standard taxi.

I urge you, for the good of all DC residents, vote NO on this issue.

Thank you,  
Matt Turley

  
Washington, DC 20018


**From:** [David Mizejewski](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote no to minimum fare for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:23:25 PM

---

Dear DC Councilmembers,

I'm following up my email from yesterday to urge you to vote for Councilmember Evans' amendment that would have no minimum for Uber.

David Mizejewski  
Park View, 20010

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 6:47 PM, David Mizejewski <> wrote:

Dear DC Councilmembers,

I recently signed up for Uber, and I can't overstate how much better it is than the DC cab services.

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

We need competitive, low-cost, energy efficient, clean, air-conditioned, reliable cars that all accept credit cards as the standard in DC. Sadly none of these things apply to DC cabs. They do apply to Uber service.

Again, please strike down the minimum fare language on the Uber Amendment and allow Uber to introduce UberX and hybrid vehicles at a competitive rate in DC.

David Mizejewski  
Parkview, 20010

**From:** [David Mizejewski](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote no to minimum fare for Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:47:54 PM

---

Dear DC Councilmembers,

I recently signed up for Uber, and I can't overstate how much better it is than the DC cab services.

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the mimimum fare language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

We need competitive, low-cost, energy efficient, clean, air-conditioned, reliable cars that all accept credit cards as the standard in DC. Sadly none of these things apply to DC cabs. They do apply to Uber service.

Again, please strike down the minimum fare language on the Uber Amendment and allow Uber to introduce UberX and hybrid vehicles at a competitive rate in DC.

David Mizejewski  
Parkview, 20010

**From:** [Matt Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote NO to UBER Amendment to Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:44:28 PM

---

Councilmember Evans is introducing an amendment that would have no minimum for Uber. Please support this amendment!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 9:22 PM, Matt Tucker <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear DC City Council members,  
I am a longtime resident of the District. My family and I lived on Capitol Hill for nearly seven years and we now live in the Palisades. I appreciate the work all of you do for our city.

I am writing in support of competition and a level playing field for Taxis and other cars for hire in DC. As such, I strongly support UBER and I will be extremely disappointed if the Council passes the "UBER Amendment" and pledge not to vote for any of you in future elections if this amendment passes.

Taxis in Washington DC are a disgrace. Most taxis are older unsafe cars. Each time I get into a Taxi, I not only fear for my life, but also my for the fate of my pocketbook. I always feel lucky to be alive, yet totally ripped off each time I get out of a Taxi in Washington DC.

That is until the UBER service came to our city. My experiences with UBER have been fantastic. I know what I'm getting each time - I get a safe new car at a good rate. I am happy that UBER is working to bring a lower cost service to the city. I will want to use UBER more and more.

Do not bend to an extreme minority - the Taxi drivers. The UBER Amendment is anti-competitive and anti-DC resident. The UBER Amendment removes choice for consumers which is a bad thing.

Keep the playing field for UBER level. DO NOT VOTE TO PASS THE UBER AMENDMENT!

Thanks,  
Matt Tucker  
NW Washington DC

--  
Matt Tucker  
[REDACTED]

--

Matt Tucker



**From:** [Matt Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO to UBER Amendment to Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:22:23 PM

---

Dear DC City Council members,  
I am a longtime resident of the District. My family and I lived on Capitol Hill for nearly seven years and we now live in the Palisades. I appreciate the work all of you do for our city.

I am writing in support of competition and a level playing field for Taxis and other cars for hire in DC. As such, I strongly support UBER and I will be extremely disappointed if the Council passes the "UBER Amendment" and pledge not to vote for any of you in future elections if this amendment passes.

Taxis in Washington DC are a disgrace. Most taxis are older unsafe cars. Each time I get into a Taxi, I not only fear for my life, but also my for the fate of my pocketbook. I always feel lucky to be alive, yet totally ripped off each time I get out of a Taxi in Washington DC.

That is until the UBER service came to our city. My experiences with UBER have been fantastic. I know what I'm getting each time - I get a safe new car at a good rate. I am happy that UBER is working to bring a lower cost service to the city. I will want to use UBER more and more.

Do not bend to an extreme minority - the Taxi drivers. The UBER Amendment is anti-competitive and anti-DC resident. The UBER Amendment removes choice for consumers which is a bad thing.

Keep the playing field for UBER level. DO NOT VOTE TO PASS THE UBER AMENDMENT!

Thanks,  
Matt Tucker  
NW Washington DC

--

Matt Tucker  




**From:** [Emily McKee](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO to Uber Minimum Rate Floor  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:59:30 PM

---

I URGE you to vote for Jack Evans's amendment that would prevent a floor being placed on Uber's rates.

A lot of people who were previously not atuned to the goings-on of the DC City Council are now watching.

Thank you for representing your constituents' interests in this vote today.

Emily McKee  
12th & O Streets, NW

**From:** [Emily McKee](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO to Uber Minimum Rate Floor  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:16:11 PM

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As a constituent of Ward 2, I'm very disappointed by the motion of the DC City Council to try to prevent Uber from lowering rates. As elected officials, you should want the best in innovation and service provided to DC residents.

Preventing Uber from controlling their own rates does not align with making a DC a world-class city. **I URGE you to vote against setting a price floor for Uber.** A lot of people who were previously not atuned to the goings-on of the DC City Council - with the incomes to donate to influence DC politics - are now watching.

Thank you for representing your constituents interests in this vote today.

Emily McKee  
12th & O Streets, NW

**From:** [Brian Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:41 PM

---

Mr. Wells -

As a long time resident of Washington, DC, I am respectfully requesting that you vote against the amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would prohibit Uber from lowering its prices. I fully understand that this will impact DC taxi drivers and their families, but (1) there is plenty of business in this city to allow both to co-exist; (2) competition is a good thing and may force the taxi industry to provide better services; (3) this is a new innovative, technologically developed system that we should embrace and not penalize; and (4) it should be the role of city government to serve the citizens, not the taxi industry.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,  
Brian Walsh

Brian O. Walsh  


**From:** [Ken Stark](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote not to put a minimum price for Uber or transportation firms.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:10:45 PM

---

Vote not to put a minimum price for Uber or transportation firms.

Ken Stark  
President  
Stark & Associates  
Commercial Real Estate  
TCN Worldwide Affiliate

9855 Double R Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Reno, Nevada 89521



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Fax  
Cell

[www.starktcn.com](http://www.starktcn.com)

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**From:** [Ken Stark](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote not to put a minimum price for Uber or transportation firms.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:10:23 PM

---

Vote not to put a minimum price for Uber or transportation firms.

Ken Stark  
President  
Stark & Associates  
Commercial Real Estate  
TCN Worldwide Affiliate

9855 Double R Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Reno, Nevada 89521



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Cell

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**From:** [Elizabeth McWhorter](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to bring UberX to DC!!!!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:20:10 PM  
**Importance:** High

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<![endif][if gte mso 10]> <![endif]-->

Dear DC Council Member Wells:

I am a resident and homeowner in Ward 6 of Washington, DC. As my representative, please do all you can to keep our city as open as possible to competitive business models that encourage good service.

As a single female resident of Capitol Hill, I have been left standing on the curb several times futilely trying to hail a cab home. That is not to say that cabs don't stop for me. After all, I am well-dressed, well-behaved... usually carrying an awesome purse. I'm a good tipper, but I know (as someone that has waited tables before) that that isn't necessarily something you can assume from a person's appearance. I take issue with the taxi industry when it has come to the deplorable state of allowing not one cab, but two cabs in one night, think that it is acceptable behavior to pull over as if to pick me up, lock the doors, ask through lowered windows for my destination, then refuse to unlock the doors and drive away. Leaving me on the curb. In the dark. By myself. With an awesome purse. And yes, I told the second one that it was illegal to do what he was doing and I took note of his license plate and emailed the taxi commissioner right away.

I have lost more than one awesome purse to theft in this city. I am not interested in tempting fate and standing outside on the curb in the dark by myself for extended periods of time. It makes me uncomfortable. I have actually walked to the Hill from Dupont Circle without being able to hail a cab rather than wait the 45 minutes I was told it would take as I called in a request.

This city needs UberX. I need UberX. I don't like going out beyond the confines of my neighborhood anymore. It is often more trouble that it is worth to get home. Uber has been the savior of many fun and carefree nights out, but UberX will help me save up to pay all of those property taxes I'll owe next April.

Thanks for listening,

Elizabeth McWhorter

Washington, DC 20002

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/technology/uber-a-car-service-smartphone-app-plans-cheaper-service.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/technology/uber-a-car-service-smartphone-app-plans-cheaper-service.html?_r=1)

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July 1, 2012

## Uber, an App That Summons a Car, Plans a Cheaper Service Using Hybrids

By [BRIAN X. CHEN](#)

Uber, a start-up based in San Francisco, has won a following among urbanites with its novel twist on calling a car service: its app lets you [summon a luxury sedan](#) with a tap on your phone. Now it is trying to appeal to the less affluent by adding less luxurious cars.

In San Francisco and New York on Wednesday, Uber will start to give customers the option of choosing

a hybrid car at a price that it says will be 10 to 25 percent more than a taxi. That compares with the 40 to 100 percent premium that customers pay for a black town car.

"This is the first big step Uber is taking to go to the masses," said Travis Kalanick, the company's chief executive.

[Uber](#), which has raised \$43 million from investors since 2011, is one of several start-ups, including [Cabulous](#) and [Taxi Magic](#), that are trying to profit by connecting drivers and passengers more efficiently.

Its software tries to predict areas where rides are likely to be in high demand at different times of day. This information appears on a driver's smartphone so that he can know where to linger and, ideally, pick up customers within minutes of a request for a ride. Uber does not itself provide the cars; it works up with existing for-hire car services that piggyback on its technology and give it a cut of fares.

Uber can come in handy in cities or neighborhoods where cabs are hard to flag down on the street. But cities often have decades-old regulations regarding car services acting as taxis, and officials in some cities, including Washington, say they are concerned about Uber confusing riders or breaking the rules.

Of course, Uber's convenience comes with a cost. People are paying not just for the service, but also the gas used by the big sedans. That's where hybrid vehicles will help bring down the price: drivers will spend less time and money fueling up.

The company plans to expand its offering of hybrid cars to other cities in the coming months. Uber is now operating in about a dozen cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Diego, Paris and London.

When people use the Uber app in San Francisco and New York, they will be able to choose between a town car and a hybrid. In most cities, the company is also adding the option to hire an S.U.V. for larger groups. Rates will vary from city to city, but in general hybrids will cost 30 to 40 percent less than Uber's black town cars, according to Scott Munro, an operations manager at Uber.

In San Francisco, for example, the hybrid cars will cost \$5 for the base fee, and then \$3.25 a mile after that. By contrast, the town cars cost \$8 for the base fee and then \$4.95 a mile. Taxis in San Francisco cost \$3.16 a mile including a tip of 15 percent.

Despite its higher fares, Uber has grown significantly. The company declined to disclose precise numbers, but Mr. Kalanick said it had recorded 20 to 30 percent revenue growth from month to month over the last year, and that there were thousands of cars using Uber's technology. In San Francisco, 400 drivers are signed up with Uber, and that number is growing all the time, Mr. Munro said.

The company convinced its car-service partners to buy a total of 50 hybrids just for customers coming through Uber — a sign that drivers are making money with the start-up.

Mohamed Mandour, a partner of Uber who owns a car service called Nada Limo in San Francisco, bought a Toyota Prius hybrid for the new program. He said his passengers were interested in taking the hybrid cars, even though they are less roomy and luxurious, because of the lower fares.

Mr. Mandour said that when he drove cabs for nine years, he would make only about \$300 on a busy 10-hour shift. But when he worked with Uber, the amount he earned jumped to more than \$700 on a good day, he said. "I hope the new idea will work, because then we'll be taking over the whole Bay Area," Mr. Mandour said.

The cab commission of the District of Columbia is less thrilled: it is in the midst of a legal tussle with Uber. Ron M. Linton, chairman of the commission, said Uber had begun operating in the city without its approval.

He said that under the commission's rules, there are limousines, which set a price with passengers in advance, and there are cabs, which have meters that charge by time or distance. He said Uber was breaking the rules by trying to be both. Uber calculates fares by time and distance, and then bills the customers' credit card.

The commission's inspectors have been citing Uber's car-service partners for infractions, Mr. Linton said. The commission is proposing to change the district's taxi laws to strengthen regulation of sedans like the ones that Uber's partners use. Mr. Linton said this would allow it to protect consumers from issues like extra fees that they don't understand.

"There's room for limos, for taxis and this new concept for sedans," he said. "We're trying to make it work for everybody, but we need cooperation. We can't deal with an organization that sticks its thumb up our nose."

Mr. Kalanick of Uber said its operations in Washington were completely legal, and that the commission was citing rules that don't exist. He said the commission wanted to regulate sedans more tightly so that it could control their fares, which would prevent Uber from eventually undercutting cabs.

"They want to keep our prices from going down, which is a very unusual price-fixing scheme," Mr. Kalanick said. "Essentially they're trying to protect taxis from competition, from having any viable alternative."

New York doesn't seem to have a problem with Uber. Allan Fromberg, a spokesman for the city's taxi and limousine commission, said that as long as services like Uber conformed to the city's rules, "we are highly supportive of ways to use technology to enhance service to the riding public."

In Boston, Uber is shaking things up in other ways. Starting Wednesday, customers there will have the option to request stretch limos. And soon they will be able to summon an ice cream truck.

"You'd have ice cream on demand," Mr. Kalanick said. "It's kind of fun. That's part of how we roll."

Jenna Wortham contributed reporting.

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

**Correction: July 3, 2012**

An article on Monday about Uber, a company whose app lets users summon a car service, misstated a point made in an e-mail from Allan Fromberg, a spokesman for New York City's taxi and limousine commission. He wrote that the city supported such services as long as they followed its rules; he did not say that Uber was following them.



**From:** [Kelly Campagne](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to Remove Minimum Fare!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:52:31 PM

---

Mr. Catania,  
Please continue your great service to the District and vote to remove the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber is a great service and, unlike DC taxis, very reliable! We need this service in DC.

--

Kelly Campagne  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--

Kelly Campagne  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ryan Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to Strike Down the MINIMUM FARE Language from Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:19:33 PM

---

Dear Council Men and Women,

I am writing today, asking that you strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment, being voted on today.

Please see [this post](#) for a full explanation of my concerns.

I would certainly appreciate a response to this e-mail and am interested to know whether you as a councilman or woman value innovation or incumbents? I will be publishing your response (by name) in the comments of the above referenced blog. I will take your failure to respond to mean that you value incumbents and have voted such.

Sincerest thanks for your attention in this matter,

Ryan Flynn

**From:** [Phil Blando](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to Strike the Minimum Fare Language from Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:11:51 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am writing to respectfully ask you to please vote to **strike down** the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that may be voted on this week in the City Council. The proposed language would effectively reduce consumer choice and competition. It's 2012 – why shouldn't consumers have more cost-effective options at their fingertips, especially in underserved areas of the city? Please vote to strike the minimum fare language.

Sincerely,

Phil Blando



Washington, DC 20007

**From:** [Katie Tierney](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to Strike the Minimum Fare Language from Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:02:50 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am writing to respectfully ask you to please vote to **strike down** the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that may be voted on this week in the City Council. Having recently moved from Chicago to DC, I am shocked at the state of the taxi cab system in DC. It's amazing that in 2012 in a city like DC the standard taxi cab is filthy, charges extra for a home/business pick up and is cash only. The proposed language would effectively reduce consumer choice and competition. It's 2012 – why shouldn't consumers have more cost-effective options at their fingertips, especially in underserved areas of the city? Please vote to strike the minimum fare language.

Sincerely,

Katie Blando

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20007

--

Katie Tierney Blando

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:45:14 PM

---

I just wanted to follow up on my email from yesterday. I have been made aware of Jack Evans amendment for no-minimum fees for Uber. As an active voting citizen, I ask you to please support this bill. I truly believe that it is in the best interest of the community.

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:07 PM, Matthew Kostinas <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Hi David,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.  
Matt

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:44:15 PM

---

I just wanted to follow up on my email from yesterday. I have been made aware of Jack Evans amendment for no-minimum fees for Uber. As an active voting citizen, I ask you to please support this bill. I truly believe that it is in the best interest of the community.

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:05 PM, Matthew Kostinas <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Hi Tommy,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.  
Matt

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:43:05 PM

---

I just wanted to follow up on my email from yesterday. I have been made aware of Jack Evans amendment for no-minimum fees for Uber. As an active voting member, please support this bill. I truly believe that it is in the best interest of the community.

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:03 PM, Matthew Kostinas <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Hi Michael,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.  
Matt

**From:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Allen, Charles \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Did not know if you all have seen this yet – one of my buddies sent it over to me.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Christian Troncoso <[REDACTED]>

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

**THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!**



If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#)
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).

U B E R

Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

[Unsubscribe](#)  
[Subscription Preferences](#)  
[View this email in your browser](#)

 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

Daniel Conner, Deputy Director  
Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells  
Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning

1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 117

Washington DC 20004

[REDACTED] (direct)

(202) [REDACTED] (main)

[www.TommyWells.org](http://www.TommyWells.org)



[Click here to follow Tommy on Twitter](#)

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:20 PM

---

Hi David,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.

Matt

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:56 PM

---

Hi Tommy,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.  
Matt

**From:** [Matthew Kostinas](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:03 PM

---

Hi Michael,

As an avid Uber member I am very upset to hear about this vote tomorrow. I have found myself in many situations where I am unable to get a taxi and have been saved by Uber. Whether it be when a Washington Capitals game has just gotten out. Whether I am in a rural area in Friendship heights. Whether I am going to be late for work and I need uber to come get me quickly. There is nothing more convenient than putting your location on a map and having a car come get you. It is more expensive than a taxi, but frankly it is worth it. To mandate that the rate be over 5 times more than a taxi is outrageous. There is no precedent for it. These are not DC taxis these are town cars, and they should be treated as such. We have entered into an agreement with Uber and the transaction occurs on our network. While we are picked up in Washington, DC; the transaction did not occur there. To lower forcibly raise their rates would not only be wrong, it would be attaching your name to something that is slowing progress. It is no different than forcing people to listen to the radio, when there is television.

Please do not do this.  
Matt

**From:** [Anuj Gupta](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Tomorrow - July 10, 2012  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:42:06 PM

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Dear DC Council Members,

I am writing you to ask you to not enact a minimum fare amendment for Uber. I understand the Council's long standing relationship with the DC Taxi Cab Commission, but Uber has been a welcome addition to the DC market.

I have been in the DC area for the last 15 years, most of which has been spent within the DC border. As my career took me to Rockville, I relocated to Bethesda. I still spend most of my weekend nights out in downtown DC, which, prior to the Uber service, ended with multiple arguments with DC cab drivers fighting for a way to get back home. DC cabs are absolutely horrible late at night; they have no respect for customers and only pick you up when they feel like it. I am sure DC area businesses are hurt by this poor service, because a lot of times the ability to get home influences the decisions you make which ultimately drives where and how you spend money. For example, one may decide to go home earlier so they can take the metro, or even worse decide to not even come into the district because it would be too difficult to get back.

With the Uber service, I have been able to get home without any problems in a clean, comfortable ride that was stress free. This is true from even from places like Adam's Morgan after closing time; ask any DC local when the last time they were able to easily get in a DC cab in that location?

Please, as high ranking policy makers for the world's most powerful city, please do not make a mistake by trying to kill a service that brings people to the district, encourages free enterprise and competition, and forces DC cabs to clean up their acts.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks,  
Anuj

--

Anuj Gupta  


**From:** [Brandon Moody](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote tomorrow on Minimum Fare Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:20 PM

---

Councilmember Wells -

As your constituent, I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment the city council will be voting on tomorrow.

Gov't price fixing never works. Please don't favor one industry over another; instead, let the marketplace work this out.

I'm a consumer of both taxis and services like Uber so I'm for competition that lowers costs. Please don't presume to allow taxis to dictate what their competition's fares should be - let consumers decide based on demand, service, and quality, and the many other factors of a free market.

Again, I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment the city council will be voting on tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brandon Moody

[REDACTED]

Unit B  
Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Justin Herman](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ward 6 Shows #UberDCLove  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:38:05 PM

---

As a 32-year old resident of DC's Ward 6 since 2007, I will help organize against and vote against any DC representative who votes against the innovative, cost-effective services provided by Uber. It is well believed that this is a vote that pits traditional, interest-corrupt DC politics (espoused by our first-rate city's Third World taxi services) against entrepreneurs who are finally providing a transportation option our residents can be proud of.

Thank you for your consideration - its not like the cabbies are going to be able to fight against modernization forever. Might as well do the right thing now.

Best,  
Justin Herman  
@JustinHerman



**From:** [Brandon Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ward 6, Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:41:29 PM

---

Hello Tommy,

I would like to write to you to express my concern that the council might vote in favor of restricting Uber from being able to offer lower cost fare service in the DC area. As a constituent it grieves me to think that someone could be voting to actually increase the cost of transportation in the District as our economy is struggling. This would be a tax on the citizens of the city in favor of a select group of privileged businesses that do not want fair competition. It is a bit sickening to think the concern of a protected industry is more important than the people who live and work here.

I hope that you will vote as a representative of the constituency, not of a select few.

Thank you.

--

Brandon Stewart  
Aut Viam Inveniam Aut Faciam

**From:** [Caitlin McAndrews](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Water Fountains and Taxicabs  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:15:56 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I am a Ward 6 resident and write to you about two separate issues that I'm currently concerned about.

First, I've noticed that many DC water fountains are not functioning right now. I am a runner, and often stop for water at fountains on my longer runs, especially in these hot days. By way of example, I know that on different occasions the fountain in Garfield Park, and fountains around the Lincoln Memorial have not worked. Do you know if the Council is doing anything about this, or if there is something else that might be done?

Second, I understand that the Council has taxi provisions coming before it in the coming days, including one that will impact the service called Uber. Right now, I have to travel between DC and Virginia often, and Uber has been extremely helpful given the great difficulty I have in finding traditional cabs to take me between jurisdictions. Though Uber is certainly not perfect, it provides an alternative when DC's cabs cannot or will not meet passenger's needs. I hope that you and the Council as a whole do not vote to set high minimum rates for Uber, effectively pricing it out of the market.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and your service to our city.

Regards,  
Caitlin McAndrews

**From:** [Laura Varela](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** WHAT ABOUT CONSUMER PROTECTIONS?? Strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:28:19 AM

---

Dear Councilmen,

You represent the people of Washington, not a taxi lobby. This impedes the natural course of capitalism and hurts consumers. Strike down the minimum fare language, and the ability of special interests to influence DC government.

Thank you,

Laura Varela  
D.C. Resident

**From:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** ["Christian Troncoso"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Where does Tommy stand on the "Uber" amendment?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:10 PM

---

Thanks for shooting this over. There will probably be amendments made, but not sure at this point.

Daniel Conner, Deputy Director  
Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells  
Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 117  
Washington DC 20004  
[REDACTED] (direct)  
(202) [REDACTED] (main)  
[www.TommyWells.org](http://www.TommyWells.org)



[Click here to follow Tommy on Twitter](#)

---

**From:** Christian Troncoso [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** Conner, Daniel (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Where does Tommy stand on the "Uber" amendment?

See below.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Travis, Uber CEO <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Christian Troncoso <[REDACTED]>

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service

artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#)
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).



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Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

**From:** [Christian Troncoso](#)  
**To:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Where does Tommy stand on the "Uber" amendment?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:35 PM

---

See below.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Travis, Uber CEO** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**To:** Christian Troncoso <[REDACTED]>

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### **THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!**

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#)
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
  
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@marionbarryjr](#)
  
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\] \[REDACTED\]](#) [@vincentorangedc](#)

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Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



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**From:** [Michael Drohan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Why cheap, \*reliable\* transportation matters to me: I hav MS (Support Uber!)  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:15:09 PM

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Esteemed Councilmembers:

My name is Michael Drohan, of Woodley Park. I don't often write to public officials, unless I am particularly impassioned about something. I understand we don't live in a perfect world, so don't think its worth any of our time complaining about small things. But the council's continued discrimination against Uber is particularly bothersome. I love Uber. But I don't use it because cabs are "below" me. Yes, I think it's prohibitively expensive to use all the time. But I have Multiple Sclerosis, or MS, a disease that only allows me to walk about 1/2-1 mile before I almost literally break down. I, and I'm sure countless others with similar predicaments in DC, **need** Uber, and their lower-priced offerings.

Let's get this straight: I don't consider myself handicapped. I go out to all the best bars and concert venues in DC. I just need a railing when using stairs because my balance is off. Any way I can save some energy, especially in the heat of the summer, is a main motivation. If cabs reliably picked me up from my building, then great, I'd call a cab. But the DC cab situation is so out of wack and unregulated that when Uber first came on the scene, I was ecstatic. Until I looked at my bank account the next day. And as a 26-yr-old already faced with high rent in relation to my salary, that extra few bucks is an issue. So the fact that Uber now wants to roll out a cheaper alternative is great.

I'm dismayed that the Council has taken a negative stance against Uber. If anything, their model is one for the future, and DC would be wise to encourage more business models like it, not discriminate because it scares the establishment. Uber's new offering should be seen as an opportunity, not as a threat, and with everything the DC Council has experienced recently, a No vote would only continue to lower my confidence in the elected officials of the city I love.

Do the right thing. Vote Uber. Vote efficiency. Vote evolution. Vote small business. Vote access and prosperity for all.

Sincerely,

Michael Drohan

**From:** [Nathaniel Heller](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Why I Support Uber and Oppose the Uber Tax  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:31:25 PM

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I really hope the council reconsiders the proposed Uber tax and related regulations:

<http://integrilicio.us/2012/07/09/why-i-support-uber/>

Nathaniel Heller

**From:** [Whitman, James](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Willing Buyers-Willing Sellers  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:42:04 PM

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Tommy-- I have been a long time supporter of you and your work on the Council. Given that, I am quite surprised that the Council is considering legislation to impose minimum price floors for car services such as Uber. The idea that the Council is even considering such legislation is really disappointing and a remarkable restraint of trade—you have a company that is providing a great service to District residents and clients who are consistently choosing to do business with them.

If there are licensing, safety or taxation issues related to the service that Uber provides, then those are fair game for the Council to review but don't protect the taxi special interest which provides a decidedly inferior product. Have some faith in the market and only step into this essentially competitive question if the City or the Citizens are injured by the transaction.

If you are going to spend on transportation issues, time would be much better spent on imposing stronger rules in regards to the quality of the cars/taxis which pick up passengers, acceptance of credit cards and other electronic payments, driver education and other real concerns which passengers have.

Best regards,

James Whitman  
Corporate Executive Board / Managing Director  
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] office / [REDACTED] mobile  
[Meeting Link](#)

**From:** [Whitman, James](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Willing Buyers-Willing Sellers  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:40:33 PM

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Michael- I am quite surprised that the Council is considering legislation to impose minimum price floors for car services such as Uber. The idea that the Council is even considering such legislation is really disappointing and a remarkable restraint of trade—you have a company that is providing a great service to District residents and clients who are consistently choosing to do business with them.

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Best regards,

James Whitman  
Corporate Executive Board / Managing Director  
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] office / [REDACTED] mobile  
[Meeting Link](#)

**From:** [Whitman, James](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Willing Buyers-Willing Sellers  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:49 PM

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David- I have been a long time supporter of you and your work on the Council. Given that, I am quite surprised that the Council is considering legislation to impose minimum price floors for car services such as Uber. The idea that the Council is even considering such legislation is really disappointing and a remarkable restraint of trade—you have a company that is providing a great service to District residents and clients who are consistently choosing to do business with them.

If there are licensing, safety or taxation issues related to the service that Uber provides, then those are fair game for the Council to review but don't protect the taxi special interest which provides a decidedly inferior product. Have some faith in the market and only step into this essentially competitive question if the City or the Citizens are injured by the transaction.

If you are going to spend on transportation issues, time would be much better spent on imposing stronger rules in regards to the quality of the cars/taxis which pick up passengers, acceptance of credit cards and other electronic payments, driver education and other real concerns which passengers have.

Best regards,

James Whitman  
Corporate Executive Board / Managing Director  
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] office / [REDACTED] mobile  
[Meeting Link](#)

**From:** [Tom Lee](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** writing in opposition to further regulation of Uber's business  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:08 PM

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Mr. Evans, Mr. Brown, Mr. Catania and Mr. Orange,

I'm writing as a Ward 2 resident who was dismayed to read that the city council is once again considering legislation to reduce competition among the city's transit providers. I have no idea whether this account from Uber's blog about a new minimum price for Uber service is correct:

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

But I can say with certainty that I have been extremely disappointed in my representatives' willingness to erect legal protections for incumbent taxi operators, many of whom are not district residents. To myself and many other district voters, this is deeply irritating: it means older cabs, higher fares and fewer transit options, seemingly so that our elected officials can enjoy political favors from an industry that has long been in need of reinvention.

I ask you to vote against any measure that will interfere with an open, competitive market for taxi and related services in the district. Regulation to ensure safety, modernity and professionalism in transit services seems perfectly reasonable (it's worth adding that I would not consider a medallion system to qualify -- such systems are transparent giveaways to incumbent operators). Setting minimum prices to freeze out competitors does not strike me as reasonable or at all warranted. It's straightforward favoritism.

If taxi operators cannot compete with Uber's prices, the market must rebalance and find equilibrium. Extending a subsidy to prop up an incumbent industry that offers subpar service is not an acceptable alternative.

Thomas Lee  


**From:** [Tom Kristoph](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** you can't be serious about the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:28 PM

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Setting Uber's minimum fare at **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare???**

Totally unfair, sounds illegal, definitely a VERY BAD idea. This can't be the Capital of America doing this, can it?

As a frequent business traveler to the district, this service has impressed clients, added revenue and generated such a favorable impression of the district, you can't be serious in taking this away.

**From:** [Tom Kristoph](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** you can't be serious about Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:36 PM

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Setting Uber's minimum fare at **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare???**

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As a frequent business traveler to the district, this service has impressed clients, added revenue and generated such a favorable impression of the district, you can't be serious in taking this away.



**From:** [Tom Kristoph](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** you can't be serious about the Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:23 PM

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As a frequent business traveler to the district, this service has impressed clients, added revenue and generated such a favorable impression of the district, you can't be serious in taking this away.

**From:** [Brandon Caputo](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** You're kidding, right?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:37:09 PM

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Dear Council Member,

I'm going to keep this short and sweet. Voting to put a minimum charge on taxi services in the district wreaks of an anti-trust violation. To do so would block a consumers right to the best price. Not only that, but please explain to me what is BAD about a company trying to use all hybrid vehicles? It's better for the environment! If you ask me, the law that you should be voting on should be to force all taxi companies to begin moving towards hybrid vehicles.

So if Uber helps lower prices in a time when, let's face it, our economy is so screwd up that we should be doing everything we can to help citizens save a buck AND by using all hybrids they happen to be doing good to the environment, then you should allow them to do so.

This a no brainer. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Caputo

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Brandon Caputo](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** You're kidding, right?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:36:25 PM

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Dear Council Member,

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Sincerely,  
Brandon Caputo

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Brandon Caputo](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** You're kidding, right?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:34:16 PM

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Dear Council Member,

I'm going to keep this short and sweet. Voting to put a minimum charge on taxi services in the district wreaks of an anti-trust violation. To do so would block a consumers right to the best price. Not only that, but please explain to me what is BAD about a company trying to use all hybrid vehicles? It's better for the environment! If you ask me, the law that you should be voting on should be to force all taxi companies to begin moving towards hybrid vehicles.

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This a no brainer. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Caputo

Sent from my iPad